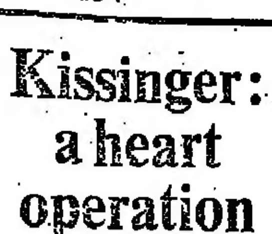
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Kissinger: a heart operation

Dr Henry Kissinger, aged 58, the former American Secretary of State, is to undergo a triple by-pass heart operation today. A spokesman for Dr Kissinger said he was in good health and spirits, but that routine tests had shown the delicate surgical procedure was necessary. Dr Kissinger was taken to hospital last week after complaining of pains in the shoulder and arm

Lords back shop hours Bill

The House of Lords gave an unopposed second reading to Lady Trumpington's Bill to allow shopkeepers to trade when they like, including Sundays. Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, had earlier told MPs that the Government was neutral, neither opposing the Bill nor planning to introduce its own legislation Parliament, page 4

Reagan plans for new nerve gas

President Reagan has formally told Congress that he wishes to resume the development of chemical weapons, including the manufacture of a new nerve gas. He reaffirmed United States policy against using them first Page 6

Manila kidnap victim freed

Tommy Manotoc, the Filipino sportsman who was kidnapped more than a month ago, has reappeared in Manila. He told a press conference of a rescue raid by government troops on the guerrilla camp where he was held Page 6

'New federalism' promoted

President Reagan, on a tour of the Middle West, defended his budget proposals and promoted his concept of "new federalism", under which 43 federal programmes would be returned to the states Page 7

Homes sales

The Court of Appeal ruled that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, was justified in taking over the sale of Norwich council houses and the council's appeal was dismissed Page 4
Law Report, page 8

Borrowing up

The Government is on course to meet its borrowing targets, latest figures suggest. But efforts to control money supply have been hit by a jump of £1,500m in private borrowing Page 13

Saunders quits

Ron Saunders resigned as manager of Aston Villa after disagreeing with his board about strengthening the team. Results this season have been disappointing after last year's championship Page 18



Liverpool in final

Liverpool reached the final of the Football League Cup after their 2—2 draw with Ipswich. They went through 4—2 on aggregate Page 18

Zimbabwe today

Focus on Zimbabwe: a four-page Special Report on how blacks and whites are adjusting to independence and calls for a one-party state.

Haig attacks suppression of freedom in Poland

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid, Feb 9

Western Nations today fought off Soviet attempts to prevent debate on Poland at the European security conference here after the United States had attacked Moscow for what it described as "massive violations" of human rights.

The six-hour dispute began when M Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, was about to address the 35-nation East-West meeting.

The Soviet representative supported by Poland and other East European countries sought to curtail further discussion on Poland. Western diplomats said that they had no intention of backing down and claimed that Mr Jozef Wiecajz, the Polish deputy Foreign Minister, who happened to be the conference chairman, was obeying obstructionist tactics dictated by Moscow.

The dispute was finally resolved when Belgium on behalf of the Western and neutral nations formally protested against the chairman's "unprecedented" interpretation of the Madrid conference rules, but agreed to let him close today's plenary session.

M Cheysson and the other 13 speakers listed to address the conference today will now speak on Friday with Lord Carrington who is joining the conference.

Mr Wiecajz maintained that he was following a unanimous agreement made before the Christmas adjournment to restrict today's meeting to a plenary morning session.

During his speech before the procedural wrangle began, Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, said that Poland's military leadership, "acting under the instigation and coercion of the Soviet Union", was suppressing the "most fundamental freedoms" of the Polish people. He went on: "The Polish regime and the Soviet Union know very well that they have violated the Helsinki Final Act [the legal document which emerged from the original meeting of the European Security Conference].

"They have taken a path inimical to security and co-operation in Europe. It is up to them to demonstrate that they take seriously the principles to which they are pledged", Mr Haig said. Listing various violations which he described as "acts of oppression and intervention", he said that to ignore them would make a charade of the Madrid talks.

Night-long negotiations between Western and Eastern delegates for an agreed list of speakers finally permitted the conference to resume as scheduled this morning after the Christmas recess.

Pope champions Solidarity rights

The Pope said that Solidarity's problems were not just a Polish affair "but the affair of the whole world of work". He told European trade unionists that the movement had been given legal authority. "The restitution of effective and total respect for the rights of working men . . . constitutes the only way out . . .", he said Page 6

Mr Haig, speaking to reporters after his speech while the conference was still bogged down on procedures, indicated the United States would go on speaking about Poland "for as long as necessary out of respect for the European security process".

The American delegation would assess carefully Eastern block reactions over the coming days, perhaps weeks, he promised. Mr Haig expected Western countries to go on speaking vigorously about Poland, but a decision whether to leave the Madrid talks was a matter of consensus. "It is not for us to say", he added.

"The generals of this war against the Polish people are none other than those of the Polish regime itself, acting under the instigation and coercion of the Soviet Union. We would be threatening the future peace of Europe if we ignored this dramatic attack on international principles"

The deputy Polish Foreign Minister left the chair while Mr Haig continued speaking, going to join his national delegation but having the deputy leader of the Polish group take the chair instead. So far there have been no walk-outs. This was the understanding arrived at on Monday together with the speakers' list.

If the Polish regime lifted martial law, sought reconciliation and a resumption of the reform process and released those it had imprisoned, the United States, Mr Haig promised, "would be among the first to insist we return to the job of moving the Helsinki process forward in both human rights and détente.

"In the meantime," Mr Haig went on, "business as usual in Madrid would simply condone the massive violation of the Helsinki Act now occurring in Poland."

Mr Haig criticized the procedural wrangle, saying it only demonstrated once again the Communist countries' disregard for the Helsinki process.

Polish sentences, back page
Turning East, page 6

Laker wants to launch a 'people's airline'

Sir Freddie Laker said last night that he planned to set up a new "eople's Airline", with public participation.

In a statement to the Press Association he said: "To avoid speculation I confirm that, as a result of the enormous public support, I am actively exploring a new airline project and the future plans include public participation in the 'People's Airline'.

"I am deeply grateful for this support and to the organizers of 'Sir Freddie's Friendly und' and others.

"I do not know as yet the amount of support which any new venture may require and because of that I would ask that no further contribution be sent in for the time being."

Aviation analysts believe that Sir Freddie's new plans would entail setting up a charter airline, possibly leasing aircraft

A cautious statement from the Civil Aviation Authority said: "We would have to examine his proposals very carefully. "He would have to come to us in any case. If he starts a new airline, he would have to prove to us his financial viability and his fitness to operate an airline. His whole case would be treated just like any other".

Meanwhile Mr Bill Mackey, the receiver appointed to Laker Airways, was considering offers for the company's two package holiday subsidiaries.

The value of Laker Travel and the "more saleable" Arrowsmith, which is based in the North-west, was eroding by the hour as travel agents continued to switch holiday bookings out of them

Mr Mackey therefore wanted to make a sale as soon as possible and expected to make a decision on the offers later in the night. Offers for both companies together were thought to be only £2m or less.

He was believed to be considering about six serious offers and said he was prepared to go right through the night if necessary to reach a decision.

"The work is progressing, but we are not yet negotiating", he said. A period of negotiation would have to follow evaluation before any decision could be made on the future of the holiday operations.

About 80 brochures describing the operations and assets of the two subsidiaries were printed, and Mr Mackey said that as many as 40 had been [illegible] room.

A spokesman for Mr Mackey said that the companies would not necessarily be sold to the highest bidder, although the amount of money offered would be the main consideration. "We are not just interested in the highest bidder. There has to be a balance between the financial side and the need to save jobs", he said.

Officials from Cosmos and Owners Abroad were summoned to Mr Mackey's office last night, and British Caledonian's Blue Sky subsidiary was also believed to be among the bidders. Thomson Holidays said last night that they would not be bidding.

Laker Airways' licences to operate scheduled services to New York, Los Angeles, Miami and Florida are likely to be suspended within six days. But Mrs Thatcher said in the Commons yesterday that it was only a suspension.

She described herself as a Freddie Laker fan, and said that she understood there was a reasonable possibility that the suspension could be ended in the right circumstances allowing Laker Airways to be sold in its entirety.

A total takeover is now only a remote possibility after the collapse of the bid by Orion Royal Bank. Laker also has a licence to operate scheduled services between Britain and Zürich

Lifting of the suspension of the licences would take place only if bodies such as the Civil Aviation Authority judged that a Laker Airways buyer would be able to continue the airline operations efficiently.

Cash and confusion, page 2

TUC study swings towards the EEC

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Trade union leaders who want to take Britain out of the European Economic Community will today receive a confidential report that argues against precipitate withdrawal.

The TUC Economic Committee is being asked to authorize an extended study of the benefit and drawbacks of community membership on the basis of an investigation that refuses to back the left's policy of separation from Europe.

Last year's congress of the TUC in Blackpool instructed the general council to campaign for withdrawal from the EEC, but the draft policy document before union leaders this morning argues that food prices might even be cheaper through the much-denigrated common agricultural policy.

"The disparity between community prices and world prices is not as great as it once was, and there would be substantial difficulties in returning to the position whereby the United Kingdom enjoyed relatively cheap supplies of food from the Commonwealth", the document says.

The policy paper, prepared by Congress House staff, also says that there has been a substantial increase in imports from EEC countries since Britain went into Europe. "However, account has also to be taken of increased United Kingdom exports to the EEC, not all of which can be explained by North Sea oil".

The whole tenor of the policy paper is against any notion of precipitate withdrawal, and on trade issue argues that Britain outside Europe would face tariff barriers on exports. "It would obviously be wrong to adopt a policy which would leave the UK's manufacturing industry in a more exposed position than it is at the moment", the document states.

Turning to economic strategy, Congress House experts argue that development aid schemes have supported industry in Britain, and some regional policy initiatives taken in Brussels have helped British workers.

Reminding union leaders that the TUC had asked for a more positive role for EEC funds extra to UK public spending, the document adds: "A campaign for withdrawal could jeopardize TUC policy. It would certainly place TUC representatives on such bodies as the EEC social fund and the European economic and social committee in a difficult position.

On legislation, the paper admits that there are instances where European laws have been seen as unhelpful in Britain. "On the other hand, EEC legislation has sometimes been beneficial, for example in helping to achieve high health and safety standards." It suggests that more could possibly be achieved through community channels than through purely UK legislation.

Examining the EEC's international political role, the TUC paper insists: "There is a growing tendency for the EEC to speak with a distinct and authoritative voice independently of the US and USSR blocks on issues of world importance. EEC pressure has pushed the UK to take a stronger line".

Whatever economic arrangements Britain has with the rest of Europe, political links need to be studied further, and this could be vital on issues such as peace, disarmament and the promotion of human and trade union freedoms.

Congress House experts argue that their paper does not seek to define or refine TUC policy on Europe, insisting that their intention is to do more work in a number of areas, and trade union leaders are invited to consider the issues with a view to suggesting priorities for further work.

However, the draft policy paper is unusually explicit in setting out alternatives to the annual congress policy resolution, and left-wing union leaders (who will mostly be absent from today's meeting) will argue that it fails to implement TUC policy on a central political issue.

The TUC opposed Britain's original accession to the EEC and has maintained an anti-EEC stance ever since.

The unions agreed in Blackpool last September not only to campaign for withdrawal from the EEC, but to "express opposition to EEC laws and regulations at every level, by exposing the damage inflicted by these provisions on trade union members and their families."





Mr Roland Davies (top, centre) being escorted along platform 1 at St Marks Station, Lincoln, by railway policemen yesterday and (below) his train—the only BR passenger train running—approaching Derby.

Aslef's lone driver rides into the sunset

By Arthur Osman

Mr Roland Davies, aged 63, the only Aslef man to work yesterday, shunting his three-coach diesel train between Nottingham, Lincoln and Derby agreed at the end of his solitary 6 am to 2 pm shift that he had always been a loner.

He is to retire in two weeks' time and clearly felt that he was beyond the union restraints of a lifetime on the railways.

At times as he rattled between the cities in a gesture of defiance to Mr Raymond Buckton and the committee of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen he must have felt a little like the man who "drove the stage through injun country" in the old West. He even had a "shotgun" guard of a railway policeman.

The policemen, however, on the train and the platforms, had little more to do than harass the reporters who filled the train and who in retaliation defiantly smoked in non-smoking compartments. No more than six passengers travelled on the train throughout the shift.

Mr Davies emerged after parking his train at Nottingham as a dour and pugnacious grandfather of four, a driver for 47 years, indifferent to the views of others, and utterly contemptuous of Mr Buckton and his committee.

He has the stamp of bloody-minded independence so often seen as a virtue in an industrial context.

"This is my one-man protest", he said. "I am against Buckton and what he is up to." Of his general secretary he continued: "He should be more interested in what he is doing on behalf of his members and should get on with the job that he is paid to do instead of acting the fool as he is. He and his committee might as well not be there. They should take advice for they will have to talk in the end."

He said that many older men in the union felt as he did, "but they won't break the strike because of their mates. I am not talking about the younger element, but the older men are sensible. The strike is ridiculous. If they get away with it this time the question of flexible working will still come up again when the next pay rise is due."

When asked what sort of courage it required to do what he had done he replied: "Well, it's either a bloody fool or someone who has no interest in other people. I have always been a loner and I do not think I am letting anyone down. I have never had many friends."

Mr Davies, of Bulwell, Nottingham, said he had discussed his action with his wife, Edna, who came from a railway family, and had her support.

Of his 240 mates at the depot in Nottingham he said: "I am not worried about recrimination nor the pickets. I nearly ran them over this morning. I am on the same shift on Thursday when I shall do the same." He had reported for work last week but there had been no train for him.

Continued on back page, col 1

McCarthy inquiry opens

Rail unions taking part in the committee of inquiry into the train drivers' dispute hope a report on the proceedings will be ready by the end of the week. Yesterday's opening was boycotted by the drivers' union, Aslef, which also decided to repeat Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday strikes next week.

BR and the other unions would resist any plan to hold a separate inquiry session with Aslef, although Lord McCarthy, inquiry chairman, is thought not to have ruled that out. Inquiry, page 2

Liberals face SDP ban on dual membership

By Philip Webster, Political Correspondent

Liberals who joined the Social Democratic Party in addition to their own to express their commitment to the alliance face imminent expulsion from the SDP because its draft constitution prohibits dual membership.

The issue will not be debated at next weekend's constitutional convention of the SDP in London, which many Liberals had regarded as their last chance to stay in the new party, because no amendments have been tabled to what they see as the offending clause.

Mr Malcolm Matson, a member of both parties, who has been conducting a tireless but unsuccessful campaign to persuade SDP leaders to change the constitution, told *The Times* yesterday that he had hundreds of others like him were fighting for their life in the SDP.

"The unforgiveable sin that I have committed is not that I disagreed with the purposes, principles and emerging policies of the SDP but simply that I am a member of that party with which the SDP is in formal alliance", he said.

The agenda for the convention is based on amendments sent in by area parties. Each party could send in only one amendment and, said Mr Matson, it was not surprising that most had concentrated on more straightforward issues like the leadership.

Mr Matson, who belongs to the Liberal Association in Sherborne, Dorset, and the local SDP area party, plans to take his protest to the convention on Saturday.

Although he has not been delegated to attend, he said that he would hand leaflets to the delegates as they entered the conference explaining that he and hundreds of fellow members would be expelled from the SDP under the constitution as it stood and pleading with them to stand up and say so if they felt this should not happen.

He is also hoping that someone will be prepared to move from the floor of the conference an amendment which he has drafted suggesting that membership of another party should be prohibited only if "its purposes are incompatible with those of the SDP".

Although both parties yesterday described Mr Matson's figure of "hundreds" of dual members as high, both said it was impossible to give an exact estimate. Neither, however, denied that he was raising an important point.

Seat share-out, page 2



Beaumont retires from rugby

Bill Beaumont, the England Rugby Union captain, announced his retirement from the game yesterday to avoid the risk of serious injury (Nicholas Keith writes).

Beaumont has led England a record 21 times and has won 34 international caps, the last 33 of them consecutively. He also captained the British Lions on their tour of South Africa in 1980 and was expected to be named skipper for the 1983 Lions tour.

His decision to quit was made after consulting a neurologist who gave him a five-hour examination on Monday. "If I received a kick on a certain spot on the head again there could be a lot of damage", Beaumont explained yesterday. "So the advice was to quit immediately".

Beaumont started in Fylde's sixth team as a full back but quickly graduated to the top rank of rugby lock forwards, through Lancashire, the Northern division and England under-23. He won his first England cap as a replacement against Ireland in 1875.

In 1977 he flew out as a replacement lock to join the British Lions in New Zealand.

He received the OBE for services to rugby in the new year honours list.

John Burgess, the president of Lancashire and former England coach, summed up the flood of tributes: "Bill is the finest thing that has happened to rugby football for very many years, both as a player and as a man. I am sure he will not be lost to the game."

Peter West, page 17

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Rubik takes a 'fiendish' Revenge

Fresh from a tortuous legal battle in the High Court, the team that introduced the world to the Rubik Cube yesterday prepared to launch an even bigger and more versatile successor, known as Rubik's Revenge (David Nicholson-Lord writes).

The Revenge will have 96 squares to be wrenched into tonal alignment, compared with the cube's 54.

For the mathematically inclined, that means 362 octillion possible variations, against the cube's 43 billion billion. It is described variously as "fiendish" and guaranteed to send seasoned cubists "one step closer to insanity".

Rubik's Revenge was displayed for the first time in Britain at the Earls Court toy fair in London last week as its producers and distributors were nearing the end of a copyright dispute over its predecessor. World sales of the Rubik Cube are now estimated at 40 million.

The cube, devised by Dr Erno Rubik, is produced by Politoys, the Hungarian state co-operative, and marketed in Britain at £4.95 by the Ideal Toy Company. In a complicated 90-minute judgment in the High Court Mr Justice Dillon ruled that rival cubes imported from Taiwan breached the Hungarian copyright, but found against Ideal on its claim for passing-off.

The Romans on tour in Britain

Howard Brenton, author of the controversial play *The Romans in Britain*, is to read the play as a narrative on a four-week national tour beginning on February 15. (Our Arts Correspondent writes).

He wants to emphasize by the tour that the play is not "illegal" because of the forthcoming indecency action by Mrs Mary Whitehouse against Mr Michael Bogdanov, the director of the play at the National Theatre.

Thatcher defends lead policy

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday defended the Government's record on the reduction of lead in petrol and said lead-free petrol could be introduced only in the long term (Philip Webster, Political Reporter, writes).

She said in the Commons that the decision to cut the maximum level of lead to 0.15 gms a litre by 1985 closely reflected the views of Sir Henry Yellowlees, the Government's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Parliamentary report, page 4
Letters, page 11

Panel to review custody laws

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, told a delegation of Conservative and Labour MPs yesterday that a working party of judges, registrars and probation and court welfare officers would be appointed to consider how better to safeguard the interests of children of divorcing parents (our Political Staff writes).

The deputation said changes were needed to improve the fragmentary manner in deciding custody and other issues.

Labour move on arms

A move to extend the Labour Party's disarmament commitment from nuclear to chemical weapons was made by members of the party national executive yesterday. Mr Frank Allaun, MP for Salford, East, said the international committee had passed a formal resolution deploring the American decision to produce a new range of chemical weapons.

Leading article, page 11

Oldfield for Bradford

Mr George Oldfield, the man who led the hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper, is taking charge of Bradford, the area where Peter Sutcliffe, the 13 times killer lived, as Assistant Chief Constable, Western Division, of West Yorkshire.

Candidate selected

Mr Bryan Gould, former Labour MP for Southampton, Test, has been selected to fight the Barking, Dagenham, constituency in east London for the party at the next general election. He succeeds Mr John Parker who is to retire at the next election.

Inquiry may hold separate talks with train drivers

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The committee of inquiry into the rail dispute, which has been boycotted by the train drivers' union, began taking evidence yesterday and the unions appearing before it hope that a report will be ready by the end of the week.

The hearing started as the executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) decided to repeat strikes next week with stoppages on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Services are expected to be severely disrupted today and there is another 24-hour strike tomorrow.

Lord McCarthy, the inquiry chairman yesterday heard submissions from British Rail, the National Union of Railwaymen and the white-collar Transport Salaried Staffs' Association. The hearings have been adjourned until this afternoon, when the committee's examination of the evidence should be completed.

All three rail unions are due at the House of Commons this morning to give evidence in private to the select committee on transport, which is investigating BR's electrification plans and productivity in the industry.

In spite of Aslef's boycott Lord McCarthy is understood to be keen to find a way of persuading the union to attend. BR and the other unions would resist any plan to hold a separate session of the committee for Aslef, but it is thought that Lord McCarthy has not entirely ruled out that possibility.

Aslef's executive took less than an hour to decide to repeat the current pattern of strikes next week, which are costing £6m each weekday. Mr Raymond Buckton, Aslef general secretary, said that the introduction of flexible rostering, which is at the heart of the dispute over a 3 per cent pay increase, would save the board only £2.25m a year, although it would mean 4,000 lost footplate jobs.

The two other unions and BR hope that Lord McCarthy and his colleagues will make firm recommendations on the rights and wrongs of the dispute.

Mr Clifford Rose, BR's board member for industrial relations, asked the inquiry to find that Aslef had failed to meet a commitment made last August to negotiate a departure from the eight-hour day and that the board's proposals for flexible rostering were reasonable.

He also asked the committee to rule that the parties should expedite negotiations on other aspects of the six-point productivity plan outlined in the August settlement, which gave railway staff an 11 per cent, two-stage award.

"Let me reiterate once more that our agreement on pay was only possible because the trade unions, all of them, freely committed themselves to meaningful progress on productivity," he said.

"The resolution of this dispute is vital to the future of British railways. If it is resolved positively it can help us to a better future, a future where we can say wth confidence that we are prepared to make our own contribution and ask the nation to make its contribution."

The Aslef stance on rostering, to allow for the introduction of the 39-hour week, would cost an extra £5 for footplate staff and would involve the creation of 500 new jobs, he said.

Mr Thomas Jenkins, general secretary of the TSSA, said in his evidence to the inquiry that there were "faults that can be apportioned to different parties" and he believed that BR had broken last August's understanding on pay by refusing to pay to Aslef members a 3 per cent increase due from the beginning of January.

He thought the board should have paid the increase and then proceeded through normal negotiating machinery on the productivity aspects, which the board felt had not been honoured.

Mr Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the NUR, told the committee his union believed that there had been two understandings reached last August on pay and productivity, which were completely separate. However, he also believed that Aslef had not honoured productivity commitments made at the time.

☐ Yorkshire miners "blacking" the movement by rail of coal from pits on Aslef strike days are doing so in the knowledge that pit head storage space will become full and pits will stop working (Ronald Kershaw writes from Barnsley). Branch officials of the National *Union of Mineworkers are monitoring all coal movements to ensure that coal usually taken by rail is not moved by road.*



Pyke arrives in Britain

Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman held in Iran for 17 months, walking through Heathrow Airport, London, yesterday with his wife after they arrived from Amsterdam. With them is Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, who met them.

Mr Pyke, looking fit, said he had been held in Iran on a trumped-up charge after turning down an Iranian pilot who asked him for a job. During his detention he saw some of his cell companions taken away hooded for execution. He said the case against him was "a file of rubbish"

Science report

The largest molecule found so far in space

By the Staff of "Nature"

The largest molecule so far found in space turns out to be a chemical relative of acetylene containing no fewer than 11 atoms of carbon strung together. The discovery of the molecule in the shell of gas surrounding a carbon-rich star 600 light years away is described by four radioastronomers, M. B. Bell, P. A. Feldman, Sun Kwok and H. E. Matthews, from the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics in Ottawa.

Its importance lies not so much in the size of the molecule as in the possible role of carbon stars in populating interstellar space with relatively complicated chemical materials. Carbon stars are those in which thermonuclear processes have converted substantial amounts of their primary nuclear fuel into carbon, some of which has been expelled from the centre of the star by the pressure of radiation.

Data from two radiotelescopes, in the United States and Canada, have been combined to show that the 11-carbon molecule exists in the outer atmosphere of the carbon star known as IRC+10°216. The star, which is relatively cool compared with the sun, has been known for some time to contain molecules of the family of which acetylene is the simplest member, and known as polyyenes, as well as cyanopolyyenes in which a chain of carbon atoms terminates at one end in a hydrogen atom and at the other in a nitrogen atom.

The molecule now discovered has an atom of nitrogen at one end of the chain of 11 carbon atoms and a hydrogen atom at the other. To chemists, it is known as cyano-deca-pentayne. Similar but smaller molecules have previously been recognized in the atmosphere of the same star, especially the molecule constructed from a chain of seven carbon atoms.

In the atmosphere of the carbon star, the molecules have been recognized by their characteristic contribution, at a predictable frequency, to the emission of radio waves from the outer atmosphere of the star. Altogether, three distinct spectral lines from the 11-carbon molecule have been found in the range of frequencies from 23,500 to 24,500 megahertz, corresponding to a radio (or radar) wavelength of just over a centimetre. The spectral lines which have been measured are caused by changes in the rotational energy of 11-carbon molecules.

The most striking feature of the observations now reported is that the 11-carbon molecule seems to be 70 per cent as abundant as the smaller seven-carbon molecule in the atmosphere of the carbon star. The implication is that the processes by which these longchain molecules are constructed in stellar atmospheres are surprisingly efficient. They could even be steps in the construction of graphite grains, thought to be an important constituent of interstellar dust.

The authors of the research say that these large molecules will be swept out of the atmospheres of the stars in which they are formed by the pressure of radiation, and that even though large proportions of them will then be destroyed by ultraviolet light from bright stars, they should be a substantial source of carbonaceous chemicals in interstellar space.

Source: *Nature* (Vol 295, p389, February 4, 1982).

Mixed reaction to 'Times' job cuts

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The main craft print union stepped into the crisis at Times Newspapers yesterday with an appeal to both sides in the company to work together to ensure that it had a "healthy, prosperous and viable future".

The unexpectedly conciliatory statement by Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, came 24 hours after the warning by Mr Rupert Murdoch, company chairman, that *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* would be closed unless agreement on 600 redundancies was reached within days.

Mr Wade said that he did not accept the "ultimatum" from Mr Murdoch but added that the union had no alternative but to join management in discussions on a survival plan for the company. "It is clear that not only our members' jobs at Times Newspapers are at risk but also in other parts of News International", he said.

Mr Wade believed the strategy needed by Times Newspapers was comparable with that agreed between Mr Robert Maxwell and unions for his British Printing Corporation.

In contrast, Mr Owen O'Brien, general secretary of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel, whose members must provide the largest number of reductions, continued yesterday to criticize the management's approach.

Mr O'Brien said: "We will be involved in talks with the management but I believe that both the timing and the size of redundancies requested is unrealistic."

Mr Wade said that the British Printing Corporation plan had resulted in "many casualities". But it meant that "BPC is now on its way to stability, prosperity and security of employment for those workers who remain".

A future for TNL would require goodwill and understanding from everybody concerned, Mr Wade added. "In particular it will require an exceptional degree of understanding, on the part of Mr Murdoch and his management, of the social implications and human problems created by this ultimatum."

TNL employees were yesterday given until tomorrow week to apply for voluntary redundancy under new severance terms, which range from 12 weeks' pay to a maximum of £25,000.

The terms, contained in a four-page document, appeared broadly comparable with those offered in previous schemes at TNL. However, they were less favourable in that they set a new minimum payment of 12 weeks, instead of 26, and imposed a new ceiling of £25,000 for the longest serving in the 21-59 age group. The company emphasized last night that the terms were substantially in excess of statutory redundancy payments.

In talks which began yesterday, and which will involve more than half of the 52 chapels (union office branches) at TNL, the company is seeking cuts among 2,950 part-time employees in addition to the reduction of 600 full-time jobs.

Making clear that all redundancies are conditional on overall agreements, the company's document states that individual applications for redundancy under the new terms will only be accepted "if there are sufficient volunteers both in aggregate and in each department affected by the company's redundancy proposals".

Separate terms will apply to journalists. The management, which is understood to be seeking between 360 and 390 cuts in clerical staff, wants a reduction in TNL editorial staff of about 35.

Businessmen displeased

Travellers' tales cast shadow on BA

By Michael Baily, Transport Correspondent

How inefficient is British Airways, the state leviatham that stays afloat after losing £140m last year while Laker founders? Highly so, to judge by two recent statistics. It is the businessman's least popular airline, according to a poll carried out by the magazine, *Business Traveller*; and with 52,000 staff (since cut) it headed the International Air Transport Association (IATA) table of biggest employers among world airlines last year.

Feedback to *The Times* from dissatisfied customers is also fairly bad. Here is a small selection: From a businessman in Bangkok: "I shall make absolutely sure that not only I, but everyone in my firm, never flies BA again." He was furious not only with BA's failure to accommodate him and his family on the flight to Bangkok although the reservations had been confirmed only a few hours earlier, but also with the unsympathetic attitude of BA staff. "They almost made me feel it was my fault", he declared.

A businessman returning to London from Switzerland: "A neighbour and I returned on the same day and I was amazed to find he got home first, although I caught an earlier flight. The reason was that it took three hours to get my baggage at Heathrow, while his, with a European airline, went straight through."

An Atlantic traveller: "They have cut down the cabin staff so much on their transatlantic jumbo flights that they can hardly cope with the workload. Their attitude on our flight seemed to be: 'We have got to suffer, so you are going to, too'."

A colleague at *The Times*: "On a recent flight from Amman there were 12 overbooked, causing great distress to passengers. The stewardess told me it happened all the time. She could not take it any more and was applying for voluntary redundancy."

Another colleague at *The Times*: "I tend to keep away from British Airways. The stewardesses are like starchy public schoolgirls who look down their nose at you. They are far too busy talking to each other to attend to you."

On punctuality, BA boasts of a remarkable improvement to 84 per cent of short haul and 69 per cent of long haul flights leaving within 15 minutes of scheduled time. But this is apparently still far short of some rivals: Lufthansa, for example, claims 93 per cent on United Kingdom flights, 95 per cent in Europe generally, and 98 per cent in Germany.

As the world's biggest international airline in terms of routes served—16 million passengers to 180 destinations in 1980-81—it is understandable that BA comes in for criticism, especially from the British, who so love to criticize their own.

Too much of it is justified, and apparently springs from overmanning, restrictive practices and managerial lethargy that exist elsewhere in large-scale British industry, but not to the same extent in rival airlines.

Much of that is believed to go back to the forced merger between the British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) and British European Airways (BEA) in 1974.

But BA is taking a firm grip on its problems. The target is profitability next year to pave the way for privatization. There is no reason why that should not succeed because BA has great inherent strengths; though the conglomerate may not stay in one piece.

A vigorous programme of rationalization is under way. By June the staff will have been reduced from 58,000 to 43,000 after a three-year programme. Unprofitable routes and services are being dropped, and surplus aircraft put on the market.

☐ A £4 cut to £110 return on the London-Scotland shuttle was announced by BA yesterday, and reduced fares to Europe were announced by the Air Europe holiday charter airline.

☐ Many BA European flights were halted yesterday when more than 600 tarmac workers at Heathrow airport, London, claimed they had been locked out by the airline after refusing to operate new rosters (the Press Association reports).

Yesterday marked the implementation of BA's plan for economic survival, which includes new rosters, the ending of some demarcation lines and the extension of working hours. Many flights were cancelled, although management staff helped some services to operate. Shuttle flights were not affected.

BA hopes to operate two thirds of its European services today with the help of volunteers from other departments.

Industry 'reminder' for Howe

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was given more strong advice last night to concentrate any reflationary measures he has to offer in his Budget on March 9 on helping industry.

The message came from both wings of the party at a private meeting of the backbench finance committee. Although many of the 30 or so speakers favoured the indexation of tax allowances, which the Chancellor is widely expected to restore, he would have been left with the impression that they expect him to give business aid greater priority than cuts in the standard rate of income tax.

The Chancellor did not say a word at last night's meeting. If he even said "good evening" no one, apparently, heard him. But he would have heard little that surprised him.

MPs expected him to produce a mild reflationary package in his Budget amounting in total to something between the £1,500m injection grudgingly proposed by the right, and the £5,000m suggested by Sir Ian Gilmour and the "wets".

More than one speaker from the Liberal wing were reported to have told Sir Geoffrey that the Budget would be his last chance to get the economy right before the next election. He was told that if he delayed giving the economy a boost until next year it would be seen as an attempt to buy votes and would be counter-productive.

One outspoken critic reportedly told Sir Geoffrey that his last Budget was a disgrace.

The "wets" emerged from the meeting feeling that their case had been well put. One remarked later: "The Chancellor sat and he listened. Let us hope that he heard what was said".

No more cash, Sir Freddie appeals

Sir Freddie Laker last night joined one of his failed company's receivers, Mr Bill Mackey, in asking the public to stop sending money to the Freddie Friendly Fund for the time being. He said he had been deeply touched by the support of the public.

Confusion and acrimony continued to surround the funds pouring in yesterday to try to save Sir Freddie's operations.

Mr Mackey repeated his warning to the public not to send money. But before Sir Freddie's request last night, the fund raisers and Laker staff were urging the public to do so, while those in banking and airline circles remained sceptical that the would be of any use.

Lloyds Bank stepped in to hold the funds being raised by the Sussex hotel owner, Mrs Kay Hardy, and Mr Colin Raworth, a west London shopkeeper, while a spokesman for Laker Airways said that Sir Freddie had agreed to become a trustee of the Freddie Friendly Fund set up by Mrs Hardy.

With estimates that between £1m and £3m had been raised or promised, Lloyds said that it was impossible to give a figure. Those making donations are being given a numbered receipt by Lloyds stating that money held "to the order of Sir Freddie Laker, to be used at his complete discretion for the purposes of maintaing the Laker Airways International group, or parts of the group, as a going concern, if possible failing which to be returned to the donor less expenses if any".

Mr Mackey said yesterday he was concerned only about those sending money. The sums involved were a magnificent gesture, but could not achieve "the resurrection of Sir Freddie Laker".

Sir Freddie's business has debts of £270m, and assets of £200m, with only £18m in shareholdings.

Mrs Hardy said: "Even if the money buys just one aircraft at the end of the day, Sir Freddie can start up again. He started with only one plane".

Those in airline circles, however, estimated the cost of one of Laker's DC10s at anything up to £10m. The Airbuses he owns, in which some companies have expressed interest, should fetch higher prices.

Sir Freddie himself was in court again yesterday at a private hearing before a High Court Family Division judge. His American-born third wife was also present. The couple married in 1975 and have a four-year-old son.

Four-way battle, page 13

£75m contract for Marconi

A British company has won a £75m contract to build a new radar system for the Seawolf naval missile, after nearly 12 months of indecision at the Ministry of Defence.

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, announced yesterday that Marconi Radar Systems had beaten competition from the Dutch firm, Signaal, which could save several hundred jobs, mostly at Chelmsford, Essex.

☐ If the Government was so foolish as to want to stay in the nuclear game it would have to buy Trident II instead of Trident I at a probable cost of £10,000m, a sum equilavent to the whole of this year's public sector borrowing requirement, Mr Denzil Davies, an Opposition spokesman on defence, said yesterday (our Political Staff write).

He added that Trident II was a first-strike weapon, dedicated to the theory that nuclear war can be confined to military targets. Its purchase would much weaken Britain's conventional defences.

Irish ban on Sinn Fein party political broadcast

From Richard Ford, Lucan, co Dublin

The Irish Government moved swiftly yesterday to ban Provisional Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, from having a two-minute party political broadcast on radio and television tomorrow.

The apparent loophole in the law which would have allowed the organization air time brought a quick response, with a ministerial order being issued after the Cabinet met to discuss the invitation from radio Telefis Eireann.

A Government statement issued last night said that the order extended section 31 of the Brodcasting Act to include all broadcasts by or on behalf of Provisional Sinn Fein. It added: "Such prohibition must remain in force until such time as PSF formally and publicly renounces violence and arranges for its terrorist wing to surrender its weapons, explosives and other instruments of murder and destruction".

Immediately the order became known PSF said in a statement that it was consulting senior counsel about applying for a court injunction.

Under section 31 of the republic's broadcasting act, the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs has made an order forbidding RTE, which has five channels, from broadcasting interviews or reports of interviews with spokesmen of certain named organizations.

An order, which has been renewed annually since 1976, names the IRA, PSF, the Ulster Defence Association and any other organizations proscribed in Northern Ireland.

It was clear from the moment PSF announced that it was contesting seats in the republic's general election for the first time in more than 20 years, that it wanted to challenge the Act. As it has seven candidates it is automatically entitled to a two-minute party political broadcast.

☐ Police in Northern Ireland have identified an Armalite rifle as being one of the weapons used in the sectarian murder of 10 Protestant workmen at Kingsmill six years ago (Tim Jones writes from Belfast).

The rifle, a favourite weapon of the Provisional IRA, has been used for 16 killings and six attempted murders. It was discovered last year by police in the Irish Republic after a high speed car chase.

NEWHAVEN FERRY REPRIEVED

Sealink has reprieved its Senlac ferry service between Newhaven and Dieppe. The ferry's crew yesterday voted to end its five-week sit-in aimed at saving the service.

Sealink UK, a subsidiary of British Rail, and French railways have agreed a new shareout of revenue from the service, and the French have also agreed to introduce a more modern ship on the route to attract more traffic.

The Senlac will undergo a refit, expected to take three or four weeks, before reentering service. A date for the resumption of the service, using French ships initially, will be announced soon.

Negotiations over the service were reopened after action by members of the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association halted all British Sealink ferries for six days.

Alliance shares out seats

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

National negotiators have endorsed local agreements between Liberals and Social Democrats on the equal division of 32 constituencies in Essex, North Yorkshire and Humberside.

The Liberals will fight the two best seats on behalf of the alliance—Chelmsford, which they regard as their sixth best prospect in the country, and the new Humberside seat of Brigg and Cleethorpes, seen as the eighth most winnable seat.

Yesterday's meeting, held to review progress after the cautious resumption of bargaining two weeks ago, also heard that dates were now agreed for talks to start in each of the 17 English negotiating units where discussions have not yet begun.

There was still hope of completing the process by the March 31 target date, but some negotiators think this too optimistic.

The latest agreements are subject to ratification by area Essex, the Liberals will fight Billericay, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester North, Harwich, Rochford and Southend West. The SDP will contest Basildon, Braintree, Colchester South, Epping Forest, Harlow, Saffron Walden, Southend East and Thurrock.

In North Yorkshire and Humberside the Liberals will contest Skipton, Brigg and Cleethorpes, Beverley, Rysdale, Hull East, Booth Ferry, Selby, and Richmond. The SDP will fight Scarborough, York, Harrogate, Grimsby, Scunthorpe, Hull North, Hull West and Bridlington.

☐ Mr William Shepherd, who was Conservative MP for Cheadle from 1950 to 1966, has joined the SDP. He said yesterday that extremism on the left and right made restructuring of the British party political system desirable

DILEMMA OF SCIENCE'S CHILDREN

By Annabel Ferriman
Health Services Correspondent

Artificial insemination by donor (AID) raises serious ethical questions because children are not being told their true parentage, Dr Robert Snowden, a director of the Institute of Population Studies at Exeter University, said yesterday.

Artificial insemination by donor had been used in Britain for more than forty years and practised by about 2,000 couples a year. But the ethical questions of that had not been adequately considered either.

In a lecture at King's College, London, Dr Snowden said society did not appreciate the full implications of scientific advances, such as man's ability to divide the cells of a human egg to produce two genetically identical people.

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Letters, page 11



Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 28; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B frs 40; Canada $2.50; Canaries Pes 125; Cyprus 550 mils; Denmark Dkr 7; Dubai Dir 7.00; Finland Mk 7.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 80; Holland Gl 3.25; Iran IR 135; Iraq LD 0.500; Irish Republic 50p; Italy L 1800; Jordan LD 0.425; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon L1 4.00; Luxembourg Lf 33; Madeira Esc 75; Malta 50c; Morocco Dir 7; Norway Kr 7.50; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rps 12; Portugal Esc 90; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia SR 4.50; Singapore $5.00; Spain Pes 125; Sweden Skr 8.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Syria L$5.50; Tunisia Din 0.600; USA $1.50; UAE Dir 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 50.

Prisoner and officers hurt in jail clash

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A prisoner and three prison officers were injured at Brixton prison south London, after officers had forced their way into two barricaded cells when moving prisoners to overcome an accommodation crisis, it was disclosed yesterday.

The clash, on January 25, came to light as the Government disclosed that cells at London courts and at a police station were being used as emergency accommodation for the overspill from London jails.

To avoid leaving 15 prisoners in police custody during the night and to create space, prison staff moved 15 at Brixton to Wormwood Scrubs.

Hydraulic jacks were needed to unhinge the doors of two cells, and protective clothing and shields were drawn, but not used, after staff learnt that one of the three prisoners barricaded in was armed with a razor.

One of them went quietly, but in the second cell there was a struggle. A prisoner with head injuries refused medical treatment.

Nearly 150 cell spaces were used between January 29 and February 3, Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office, told Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, chairman of the parliamentary all-party penal affairs group, in a Commons answer yesterday.

The Prison Department is now using cells at the Inner London Crown Court until March 21. The accomodation crisis comes after repeated warnings from officials.

Mr Duncan Buttery, a Prison Department official, told MPs on the home affairs select committee over a year ago that prisons were suffering from years of neglect. He said: "The whole estate is, to put not too exaggerated a view on it, collapsing round our ears, and it needs a massive injection of capital if we are to have prisons standing at the end of the decade".

The use of cells at Camberwell Magistrates' Court, Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court and Lavender Hill police station, is the result of overcrowding in prisons while emergency repairs are made. The cells have been used for adult males awaiting trial. No one has remained in police cells for more than three nights, Mr Mayhew said.

There was an outcry when cells at Horseferry Road were used for longer periods during the prison officers' dispute in 1980. Lawyers described "inhuman conditions" and a client was said to have contracted scabies in "insanitary and unhygienic" cells.

But the Metropolitan Police said doctors were always available and people in the cells were given medical checks and seen at regular intervals.

The immediate cause of the present crisis is work at Brixton, Wormwood Scrubs and Pentonville, a prison which an official there told MPs was "falling to bits".

At Brixton 208 cells in F wing were taken out of use in October, 1980, because it was classed as structurally unsound. Repairs beginning next April will take about two years.

Building work at Wormwood Scrubs is already the subject of controversy and examination by Mr Gordon Downes, and Auditor General. Mr John McCarthy, described the prison as "a penal dustbin" in a letter to *The Times*.

□ The Government is considering changing statutory guidelines introduced in 1948 on custodial sentences for young offenders (Richard Evans writes).

At present a court is prohibited from passing such sentences on people under 21 "unless it is of the opinion that no other method of dealing with him is appropriate".

Mr Mayhew told the Commons standing committee examining the Criminal Justice Bill yesterday that the present law was imprecise. "We would like to consider whether this formula in the Bill is appropriate — albeit that it has been on the statue book since 1948 — and is not capable of some improvements", he said.

But he disapproved of an amendment proposed by Mr Kilroy-Silk which stipulated that courts could impose custodial sentences only where offenders were unable or unwilling to respond to non-custodial penalties or because the sentence was needed to protect the public.

Mr Mayhew said the suggestion was too restrictive

A sculpture by John Taylor (right) of a boy suffering from muscular dystrophy and sitting in a wheelchair, on the steps of the Tate Gallery in London yesterday. It is a collecting device for the Muscular Dystrophy Group. The Tate has just received an award for providing facilities for the disabled.

Girl s borstal 'the most violent'

By Frances Gibb,

Bullwood Hall girls' borstal, in Essex, is the most violent and troubled prison establishment in England and Wales and should be closed as a matter of urgency, according to a research paper published today.

The paper, by Keep Out, a new pressure group of 50 academics, lawyers, journalists and politicians campaigning for a reduction in the number of young people in custody, describes Bullwood Hall as a penal dustbin for girls with nowhere else to go and says there are far more assaults and criminal offences there than in male establishments.

Such offences include violence, wilful damage, escapes or attempted escapes and disobedience. In 1980, 217 trainees were punished for 984 offences, including two of gross personal violence against an officer, 64 assaults and nine escapes.

Staff say there is also quite a lot of self-mutilation, including cuts and abrasions, ear piercing, insertion of needles into their bodies, tattooing and even self-strangulation.

The paper notes that staff are concerned about the growing number of girls aged 15 and 16 given a borstal sentence. They believe many would benefit from better supervision, psychiatric care and hostel accommodation in the community.

The paper says Bullwood Hall has been decribed by a visiting psychiatrist as probably the most difficult establishment in the UK. The borstal's senior psychologist adds: "In my experience this population must be one of the most, if not the most, collectively disturbed and unstable.

A former assistant governor desribed his time there in 1979 as his most demanding job, including duty at Belfast's Maze Prison, then known as Long Kesh, at the height of internment.

Professor Norman Tutt, professor of applied social studies at Lancaster University and a founding sponsor of Keep Out, said: "There is unanimous agreement that Bullwood Hall is an unsuitable environment for young women and girls and that its closure should be regarded as a matter of urgency".

He said that one of the most pernicious aspects of Bullwood was its inacessibility, although it takes girls from all over the country.

The average sentence there is seven months, yet in 1980, 13 per cent of the girls had no visit at all while there, 16 per cent had one visit and 29 per cent were not seen by a probation officer or social worker.

The paper says that many of the girls should never have been sent there. It quotes the deputy govenor: "There is great disparity of sentencing. For example, there is one girl here now for banging a house parent on the thumb."

The paper concludes that for many girls "Bullwood Hall is a penal dustbin into which they have been thrown because there is nowhere else for them to go."

Reducing the Use of Custody for Young People, Keep Out, 71 Elfindale Road, London, SE24.

Research consultants: 3

New threat to agriculture

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Agricultural Research Council shares a modest building in Great Portland Street, London, with the Schools Council, the Sports Council and the All England Women's Hockey Association.

It is responsible for 34 institutes and research units in England, Wales and Scotland, and its recent decision to close one of them and part of another has provoked much indignation and recrimination.

Professor John Rock, the council's second secretary, descibes this as an unhappy time of having to face up to financial pressures and cash limits. There is a danger, he believes, of the institute becoming over-committed, so that the funds available for vital research have to be increasingly thinly spread.

Its budget for the current year is some £86m, of which about two thirds will be absorbed by the wages and salaries of the 7,000 employed in the service.

Some money can be saved by not filling vacancies, but the continuing burden of overheads such as the heating and maintenance of buildings increases the pressure to shut down whole units and redeploy the remaining staff.

Next month the council meets in London to review the position. Hopes of a reprieve for the Animal Breeding Research Organization in Edinburgh, or for the pomology and food and beverages divisions of Long Ashton Research Station, at Bristol, are remote; the fear is rather that additional closures will be announced.

Professor Rook emphasizes the need for a more flexible organization and for greater readiness by scientists to switch from one project to another. He also believes there must be more centralized control, and that greater attention must be paid to what the "customer" wants.

But there the professor knows he is likely to tread on sensitive toes. There is constant mutual suspicion between scientists engaged on short-term applied projects and those working on long-term fundamental research.

The range of applied projects is enormous and commonly seeks solutions to problems of, for example, crop production, resistance to insecticides, fruit storage, animal diseases or quality control in dairies.

Such studies are often commissioned and sometimes paid for by grants from outside bodies. Last year the third largest outside contribution was from Oxfam.

Generally speaking, it is the applied research that is most appreciated by farmers. They have specific problems and they want the best possible advice on dealing with them. Government funds for that are channelled through the Ministry of Agriculture, and it accounts for about half the total budget.

The other half of the council's budget, which is funded directly by the Department of Education and Science, is for basic long-term research into subjects such as genetic engineering, biotechnology and photosynthesis.

Because that side of its activities is little understood, it is regarded with some suspicion although, as an official pointed out, eventual results could be far more significant.

Steering his tricky course, Professor Rook concedes that the research councils have fared better in terms of financial cuts than many other Government-funded organizations.

He is aware that, like most quangos, his council is regarded as inefficient and even unnecessary, but he points out that with a mere 160 staff, it is not exactly top heavy in relation to the institutes that it coordinates.

In answer to critics that the council itself should be abolished, rather than Long Ashton or Edinburgh, he answers that there would still be a need for some kind of central coordinating body to determine priorities.

Attitudes to the council within the various institutes inevitably vary,

One director, who at this delicate time preferred not to be named, suggested that agricultural research needed to be reorganized among a much smaller number of institutes.

"That means selective closures, which are bound to be difficult as nobody wants to lose his piece of the action.

Institute challenges the cutbacks

□ The decision to cut two important departments at Bristol and close the centre at Edinburgh is being challenged by the Institute of Biology (Pearce Wright, Science Editor writes). The institute is one of the largest of the professional science bodies with members from universities, farming, industry and government departments.

A letter to individual members of the research council accepts that cuts are inevitably, but argues that attempts to make saving simply by two pieces of surgery is an administrative convenience and the most harmful strategy for Britain's food and agriculture research programme.

The most acceptable option, although the more arduous one, would be to stop a larger number of low-priority research projects at several research units and to concentrate any resources this saved on the most important work.

There is also criticism that the decision on Long Aston and Edinburgh was made without consultation with the directors of the two establishments and with out-of-date information.

This attack by the Institute of Biology has to be seen in the context of a wider dissatisfaction with government changes in research, which emerged earlier last year with the decision to abolish the post of Chief Scientist at the Ministry of Agriculture.

The objection to that action was put in a letter to *The Times* by Sir Charles Pereira, FRS, one of the country's most eminent research biologists. Under a reorganization of research in 1972 half of the money for the Agricultural Research Council's work was put under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture. Sir Charles explained in the letter his reasoning on why a small chief scientist's group was needed to stop £40m of taxpayers' money being misused.

Tomorrow-Social science

Farmers losing £2m a day

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

Some 2,000 farmers went bankrupt in Britain last year and between 5,000 and 7,000 are in serious difficulty as the industry's debts approach £4,000m and increased by £2m a day, the annual meeting of the National Farmers' Union heard in London yesterday.

A motion calling for the Government to support a real increase in farm prices in the forthcoming EEC review was carried unanimously. The meeting also agreed, although with some dissension, that in the absence of safeguards the union should mount a forceful campaign to oppose Spain's and Portugal's membership of the Community.

Sir Richard Butler, the union's president, said that unlike manufacuturing industry, recession in agriculture did not attract attention through dramatic statistics. But farmers had cut back on all but essential spending and had not invested in replacement of buildings, plant or machinery.

"Farm investment is at its lowest level for about twenty years,"he added. "Farmers are having to borrow to maintain their working capital, or sometimes even to repay interest."

Although Sir Richard saw some hope of improvement, very few delegates shared that view. Mr J. L. Lampitt, a delegate from Stratford-on-Avon, said there was a danger of farmers becoming "the new impotent peasantry of the 1900's".

If farm incomes continued to decline, it would affect not just farmers and farmworkers, but also the hundreds of thousands of workers in ancillary industries who depended on agriclture, and ultimately th entire British population, which took the plentiful supply for granted.

Mr C. J. Jennings, who proposed the motion on Spain and Portugal, said that they were often presented as poor, backward countries whose accession was needed for political reasons. But Spain had the largest number of sheep in Europe after Britain and was forecast to become a laarge eixporter of pigmeat.

Could British horticulture seriously be expected to compete with the Canary Islands, where there were no glasshouses, no heating bills and a year-round growing season, he asked.

In calling for more positive action to establish a central marketing organization for British food, Mr John Plumb likened the EEC to a giant mousetrap, the object being to get as much cheese as possible without being caught.

The French and the Dutch were very adept at getting the cheese because they had got their marketing right.

During a discussion on animal welfare, Mr D. H. Barker described a number of organizations, including the Animal Defence Society and Compassion in World Farming, as the enemies of not only the British farmer but the British consumer.

EEC court upholds women's rail rights

By Ian Murray and Lucy Hodges

Sex discrimination by British Rail against its pensioners breaks the Treaty of Rome, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg decided yesterday.

In future women who retire from the industry should be given the same travel concessions for their families as men, according to the ruling from nine European judges.

Mrs Eileen Garland, aged 56, of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, who raised the issue, said the railways discriminated against women employees by stopping concessionary travel for their families when they retired. The families of retired male workers, on the other hand, continue to receive free or reduced fares.

Voicing her satisfacion with the judgment yesterday, Mrs Garland said: "There are a lot of people hard hit by this discrimination. The decision is obviously right and have just proved it."

Mrs Garland, a clerical officer in British Rail's accounts department, took the railways to court with the help of the Equal Opportunities Commission. Her case took several years going through the British courts, from an industrial tribunal to the Law Lords, and is estimated to have cost about £50,000.

It was lost at the industrial tribunal and Court of Appeal stage (Lord Denning presiding) on the grounds of an exclusion in the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975, which exempts from its provision anything relating to death or retirement. But it was won in the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

The Law Lords sent it to Luxembourg to make sure their judgment was in line with EEC law. The case will now return to the Lords.

The legal argument centred on whether the travel concessions came under Article 119 of the Rome Treaty, which says that men and women should receive the same pay and privileges "whether in cash or in kind".

The European judges said travel arrangements should be considered as pay in that context, and the fact that they were not part of the employee's contracts was immaterial.

"This is a landmark decision", the Equal Opportunities Commission said.

Concern at BR link in pensioners' holidays

By Tony Samstag

Pensioners who hold Railcards entitling them to half-price have have become the targets of a direct mail advertising campaign offering holidays "for the over 60's".

British Rail has supplied the names of about 10,000 Railcard holders to Saga Holidays, of Folkestone, Kent.

British Rail describes its relationship with Saga as "very big business for us", and the organizations maintain that they have had only two or three complaints since the experimental mailing began in December. They said many pensioners had welcomed the approach and several hundred had booked holidays

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham, West, whose Data Protection Bill introduced last month, calls for an independent body to monitor and safeguard the collection of personal data, questioned the propriety of the British Rail-Saga connexion.

"The problem is whether British Rail was within its rights in handing over information collected for one purpose to another organization without the person's consent", Mr Meacher said. Under his Bill such a transfer of information would be grounds for redress, he added.

The National Consumer Council agreed that the purposes for which personal data were gathered should circumscribe their use.

British Rail said selling rail holidays was big business and there was no reason to rule out similar exercises in future, although names would be used only for ventures related to rail travel. Their lists as such, if they existed, would be considered.

Neither British Gas nor Briish Airways could recall yesterday ever having supplied a commercial organization with customers' names. British Airways said that membership of its Executive Club, for example, implied "an absolute undertaking" of confidentiality. "Ethics are the most important thing; by selling it one devalues the worth of the list to oneself."

Mr A. G. C. Jones, assistant to the managing director of Saga Holidays, said yesterday that the company's policy was to take great care with complaints about unsolicited material.

All complaints were answered immediately with a letter of apology and the complainant's name was removed from the list, he added. "We are not in the business of selling people a product they do not want."

The Saga letters, personally addressed to Railcard holders and signed by Mr Sidney De Haan, the chairman, says: "Our good friends at British Rail have reacted warmly to the idea that we should write to introduce you to Saga Holidays.

"British Rail know all about Saga's great-value holidays for the over-sixties. And they felt that, as one of their privileged customers and the holder of a Senior Citizen's Railcard, you would welcome the chance of discovering just what splendid holidays they are."

Pope sends private greeting to the Queen

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, has passed to the Queen a private note from the Pope containing a "very warm message of greeting" in connexion with his visit to Britain at the end of May. The Cardinal returned from a brief visit to Rome last weekend.

The Pope, Cardinal Hume said, was looking forward to his visit. He has agreed to the central proposals for his itinerary drawn up by the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales.

The central theme will be the sacraments, of which there are seven in the Roman Catholic Church. To the extent that it is practically possible, the Pope will celebrate each of the seven sacraments, one of which will feature as a keynote in each of his public appearances.

Thus the sevice in Westminster Cathedral the anointing of the sick, that at Coventry airport confirmation, and so on.

In making his visit to Rome and in issuing a statement about it today, it is understood that Cardinal Hume is responding to the impression so far given that the main impact of the visit is likely to be a series of spectacular public celebrations, accompanied by the sale of thousands of souvenirs to pay for it all.

He is concerned to establish that the spiritual and religious nature of the visit is the central point.

"It is important that Catholics should not lose sight of the deeper significance of the Pope's journey", the Cardinal says. "He comes to confirm the faith of his brethren and to feed the lambs and the sheep who make up the flock. The Pope will come as pastor and bishop on a spiritual mission." The chosen symbol of the spiritual mission is the theme of the sacraments, he adds.

Where the nature of the sacrament makes an exact celebration of it inappropriate, in the case of penance and of marriage, a service closely related to the sacrament will be held. In York, for instance, the service will take the form of a massed renewal of marriage vows.

It is also significant that after discussing the visit with the Pope the Cardinal remarks that he hopes it will "provide fresh impetus towards visible church unity, both with the Anglican Church and with all other Christian bodies in our land".

There has been considerable speculation, and some anxiety in circles outside the Roman Catholic Church, about the nature of the so-called "ecumenical dimension" to the visit. Cardinal Hume is aware of the sensitivity.

Meanwhile, a group of Roman Catholic traditionalists, many of them members of the Latin Mass Society, have announced that they will send a briefing paper to the Pope complaining of progressive tendencies and indiscipline in the Roman Catholic Church in England.

Supported by six members of Parliament who are Roman Catholics and by such people as Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, Sir Ralph Richardson and Mr Auberon Waugh, the group is to hold a public meeting on Saturday, February 20, at which Sir John Biggs-Davison will take the chair.

The group is called Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice and in announcing the public meeting it speaks of "false ecumenism", such as the recent Roman Catholic report in support of the Rastafarian movement, the lack of official church support for traditional teaching on morality and marriage, experimental services, and anxiety about standards of religious education.

The Latin Mass Society has aleady announced an appeal to the Pope, in connexion with his visit, to restore the celebration of the Tridentine rite Mass, which was replaced by the present Roman rite in 1969.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Computing a cure for smokers

A computer programme which aims to help 1,000 smokers a month to give up the habit was launched in London yesterday by a computer company specializing in medical projects. For £14.50 smokers will receive five sets of information and questionnaires at monthly intervals. The answers they fill in will be fed into a computer to determine the content of the next bulletin.

The course, being offered by Medical Computing Services, was the idea of Dr Keith Beswick, a general practitioner from Oxfordshire (our Health Services Correspondent writes).

Dr Donald Lane, a consultant chest physician and a member of the Royal College of Physicians committee on smoking and health, said of the programme: "While it cannot make the unwilling choose to stop, the extended follow-up will help to reinforce the initial resolve."

Zoo faces trial over killer tiger

Howletts and Port Lymphe Estates is to face trial over the deaths of two keepers savaged by Zeya, a Siberian tigress, at Mr John Aspinall's zoo near Canterbury, Kent, in 1980.

Canterbury magistrates were told yesterday that the first prosecution related to the death of Mr Brian Stocks, head tiger keeper at Howletts Zoo Park, who died in hospital on August 21, 1980. The company is accused of permitting him to enter Zeya's enclosure alone when she was there.

The second summons alleges that Mr Robert Wilson, who died a month later, was permitted to enter an enclosure separated from Zeya's by a fence of inadequate design and height.

The trial will be held at Maidstone Crown Court.

Holiday in sun for Princess

The Prince and Princess of Wales's holiday next week in Eleuthera, an island in the Bahamas, is to give them a rest in the sunshine, Buckingham Palace said yesterday. The holiday, from February 16 to 26, comes after the Princess's recent fall on a staircase at Sandringham.

Part of the island belongs to the Prince's cousins, Lady Mountbatten of Burma and Lord Brabourne. The Princess is expecting her first child in June.

Peace camp is broken up

A peace camp inside the entrance of the United States Air Force base at Fairford, Gloucestershire, was broken up by Ministry of Defence police yesterday.

About fifteen anti-nuclear protesters from the west country who had been living at the camp since last Saturday, were carried off the ministry ground by 30 policemen. Their caravans and tents were removed and the ground was fenced off. A notice giving warning that the area was restricted was erected.

Poisoner of husband jailed for a year

Judith Herbert, aged 27, a housewife, who took a schoolboy aged 14 as her lover and then poisoned her husband, was jailed for 12 months at Winchester Crown Court on Monday. She was cleared of attempting to murder her husband, Mr Patrick Herbert, aged 54, but convicted of administering poison so as to endanger life. She denied both charges.

Roman remains

Workmen digging foundations for a factory extension at Ancaster, Lincolnshire, have uncovered a 2,000 year old burial ground, believed to be of Roman origin. Ancaster was built on the site of the Roman town, Causennae, where limestone was quarried.

Norwich loses appeal in sale of houses

By David Walker

The Court of Appeal yesterday endorsed the decision of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, to take over houses and flats owned by the Labour-controlled Norwich City Council to speed their sale to tenants.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, with Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice May, agreed that Mr Heseltine acted lawfully in making an order under the Housing Act, 1980, after months of negotiation with the council on the progress of sales.

"The council showed too little concern for the rights of the tenants", Lord Denning said. "Norwich council acted in complete good faith, but were misguided." They had been badly adversed on many issues and had to answer for the consequences.

The judges dismissed the council's appeal against the Divisional Court's refusal to quash the Secretary of State's action and awarded costs, estimated at £20,000, against it.

However, Lord Denning held out hope that if Norwich was prepared to "get a move on" in processing tenants' applications to buy, there might be no need for Mr Heseltine to act.

Later Mr Leonard Stevenson, leader of the council, promised to give the judge's live branch a close look. "We have delivered on sales all that we promised. We will consider whether there is a settlement to be made, but that depends on the Secretary of State as well".

Norwich is processing about seventy applications a month. At that rate it would reach the Government's target for house sales before June, the date set last year by the council and deemed by the Government to be too distant.

Mr Stevenson said he and his colleagues would adhere strictly to the law when it was finally determined. Although the Court of Appeal refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords, Norwich councillors are to consider petitioning the Lords for a review of the case.

In his judgment Lord Denning emphasized the powers given to the Secretary of State by the Housing Act.

But the courts also had a duty to protect the individual from the misuse of public power; in this case, Lord Denning said, the individual was the tenant. Tenants had complained to the Secretary of State and the law gave him express permission to intervene.

After months of inquiry the Government has found proven charges against Norwich of slowness and deliberate delay. Mr Heseltine had written: "From the first, the council sought to inhibit and postpone the due process of tenants' claims under the law". Lord Denning and his fellow judges found that he had reached that decision properly.

The council's case had rested heavily on its refusal to employ the district valuer, an Inland Revenue official, to speed the sale of his property. The judges determined that the Secretary of State's advice to Norwich to use the valuer's office was sound.

Norwich council has admitted the right of 900 of its 25,000 tenants to buy their homes, and about 450 sales have so far been completed.

The Department of the Environment said after the judgment that it would not direct civil servants to take over Norwich's housing until the council had decided whether to appeal. Mr Heseltine welcomed the verdict.

Boroughs can apply for withheld grants

☐ Two London Boroughs, Hackney and Camden, were given leave in the High Court yesterday to apply for orders compelling Mr Heseltine to hand over almost £6m wrongly withheld by him from last year's rate support grant (The Press Association reports).

Mr Charles George, for the council, told Mr Justice Glidewell in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court that *the minister had acted unlawfully* in cutting rate support grants for six London boroughs and the money was still being withheld. The councils were facing severe difficulties in fixing rates for the coming year.

Granting leave, the judge said the councils had an arguable case. He hoped that the full hearing could take place early in March, in time for rate fixing. Mr Heseltine was not represented at the hearing.

☐ Judge Hartley ruled at Knaresborough Crown Court, North Yorkshire, yesterday that the court had no jurisdiction to hear a case brought by Mr Gordon Plunkett, aged 40, a motor spares dealer, against Harrogate Borough Council, a correspondent writes.

Mr Plunkett wanted the court to declare illegal a supplementary rate levied by the council which he believes was required to pay for a new entertainments centre in Harrogate. The judge said Mr Plunkett could appeal to the Attorney General and ordered him to pay the council's costs, *estimated by* Mr Plunkett at £5,000.

Law Report, page 8

Debut for South Korean Pony

The Hyundai Pony, the South Korean car which was launched on the British market yesterday. It comes in a range of 1200cc and 1400cc saloons and hatchbacks.(Peter Waymark writes). Hyundai started production six years ago under Mr George Turnbull, the former British Leyland executive, who is now chairman of Talbot. British components worth £32m went into its development, styled by Guigiaro of Italy, designer at lue Lotus Elite and Volkswagen Scirocco, the egine and gearboxes are built under licence from Mitsubishi of Japan.

The Pony is being sold by International Motors, of West Bromich. The sales target is 5,000 cars this year. Prices start at £3,177 for 1200 hatchback, against £4,085 for the cheapest Ford Escort. The most expensive model costs £4,260. All models are covered by six-year warranty against corrosion.

Rape courts criticized

By Kenneth Gosling

The courts do not give enough protection against rape, according to 79 per cent of women questioned for a television programme.

The full results of the poll will be published later this week and shown on London Weekend Television's *Weekend World* on Sunday, when dramatized extracts from two recent rape trials will be used to demonstrate the way victims are cross-examined.

Mr David Cox, the programme's editor, said the trial excerpts, filmed with actors, showed defence lawyers trying to persuade the jury that the victims consented.

Mr Cox said victims who had not reported their cases to the police had also been interviewed.

☐ A man whose brother was jailed for 18 years at Birmingham Crown Court last week for rape and kidnapping was sentenced yesterday to ten years' imprisonment by the same judge (The Press Association reports).

Gifford Hall, aged 30, had been cleared of two rape charges, but convicted with his brother Norris of four kidnappings. The court had been told that the brothers kidnapped girls, took them to a flat in Woodcock Lane, Northfield, Birmingham, and forced them into prostitution.

How rape law works, page 8

Police aid for shoplifters

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Twelve suicides by people accused of shoplifting as a first offence have been reported in the past year to the Portia Trust, which helps people suffering from emotional distress, the trust said yesterday.

Mr Colin Geeves its southern organizer, praised police forces which are pioneering ways of reducing pressure that causes some elderly people to kill themselves.

Essex police, who run one of the schemes, yesterday disclosed for last year figures to *The Times*. They show that only 58 of 484 elderly offenders — aged over 60 — dealt with were prosecuted. Most of the offences, 362, were of theft from shops.

The police have found that old people mostly steal from shops cheese, sherry and whisky. Offenders the police identify as being at risk, perhaps through mental or physical disability, are cautioned in most cases.

As with the elderly, they are referred to agencies and doctors for help. One offender was severly depressed after being made redundant. Last year only five of 59 offenders at risk were prosecuted.

PARLIAMENT February 9 1982

Europe-wide deal needed to ban lead in petrol

PM'S QUESTIONS

Measures announced by the Government last year to reduce the level of lead in petrol had closely reflected the views of Sir Henry Yellowlees, chief medical officer at the Department of Health and Social Security, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during questions in the Commons.

In his letter, written last year and published in *The Times* on Monday, Sir Henry warned the Department of Education and Science that "there is a strong likelihood that lead in petrol is permanently reducing the IQ of many of our children."

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, asked if Mrs Thatcher had studied this extremely alarming letter. Does she accept the view (he went on) that the brain damage of some hundreds of thousands of children might be involved and does she not think in reviewing that letter again that much more urgent action must be taken by the Government to deal with the problem?

Mrs Tatcher: In know of the letter. But last May, Mr Tom King, *the Minister for Local* Government and Environmental Services, announced a wide-ranging package of measures designed to reduce further people's exposure to environmental pollution of lead.

The measures included a reduction in the maximum amount of lead permitted in petrol from 0.4 grams per litre to 0.15 grams per litre, by the end *of 1985. That is the earliest date* by which the oil industry can make the necessary changes to their refineries.

The Government's decision closely reflected Sir Henry's views. *It gives the earliest* possible substantial reduction of lead levels which he recommended. Wholly lead-free petrol can only be introduced in the United Kingdom in the long term.

The present generation of cars on United Kingdom roads may not use it. New engines would have to designed and brought into service. Given that the car manufacturing industry is Europe-wide, the changes would be impossible for British industry alone, and would be impossible without prior consultation with European firms.

Mr Foot: Is she really telling us that the statement she refers to took full account of the report of *that* nature from the chief medical officer of health, with *such alarming prospects* as he underlined?

Why is it that we in this country cannot take the same steps to protect children from damage as is taken in Australia, the United States, Japan, Sweden and many other countries?

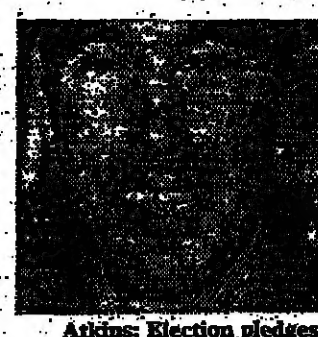
Mrs Thatcher: More steps have been taken by this Government than under any previous government to reduce the level of lead in petrol. The Government's decision announced in May 1981 closely reflected Sir Henry's views. A full Europe-wide agreement on the design of cars would be needed.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles): Since the Government gave four years' notice to the international oil industry and international motor industry, why did not the Government take the opportunity of that notice to require totally lead-free petrol in that time?

Mrs Thatcher: Because the present generation of cars on United Kingdom roads cannot use it. New engines would have to be designed and brought into service. The change would be impossible for British industry without prior agreement with European countries.

We are obviously concerned about the reported effect of lead. That is why we have taken action. We will consider any further measures but it would have to be done in agreement with Europe and we should have to consider the wider effects I have indicated.


Callaghan: An error


Atkins: Election pledges

Mrs Thatcher a Freddie Laker fan

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, told MPs: "I am a Freddie Laker fan", when she was questioned by Mr Timothy Rathbone (Lewes, C) about the collapse of Laker Airways.

He asked for a two months' extension of Laker's air operator's certificate and route licences without which, Mr Rathbone said, their future was likely to be non-assured and all their efforts come to nothing. Sir Freddie Laker was a constituent, he added.

Mrs Thatcher: I can well understand Mr Rathbone's concern. As he knows, I am a Freddie Laker fan, (Conservative *cheers and Labour laughter*). Whatever his difficulties now, nothing can take away from the great service he has done in bringing the possibility of travel to people who never dreamt they would have it. (Conservative cheers)

As for the announcement that the licences may have been suspended, or that notice has been given that the licences may be suspended within six days, the operative word is "suspension".

I understand it can be suspended and that suspension would be terminated if there was a reasonable possibility of Laker Airways being sold in its entirety to someone who can continue to operate Laker Airways as it was operated.

Decision on HM ship was difficult

The Government was fulfilling its election and Nato pledges on defence, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said. She was answering Mr Robert Atkins (Preston, North, C) who referred to the concern among Conservative MPs at statements such as those emanating from Nato recently suggesting that the RAF would be light by 100 planes by the end of this year?

Will she (he asked) prevail upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Sir Geoffrey Howe) to allow greater flexibility within the defence budget so that we can fulfil our election pledges on defence and ensure the jobs and stability within the industry?

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Atkins is about right on the reduction in the aircraft by mid-1982. These are the Vulcans, Canberras, Shackletons and Buccaneers. The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr John Nott) told the House over a year ago about the early withdrawal of older aircraft types in order to preserve the major investment programme.

We are fulfilling our election pledge and fulfilling the Nato pledge. Defence procurement has gone up considerably under this Government. We took over a procurement programme of £2,900m from the last Labour Government. This was up to £5,500m this year and next year it will be £6,700m.

Mr James Callaghan (Cardiff, *South-East*, Lab): The decision that the Government has reached to withdraw and pay off HMS Endurance when she returns from the South Atlantic is an error that could have serious *consequences. This stale* old proposition was put to me, when I occupied her office on more than one occasion and after considering it I turned it down flat. Will she do the same?

Mrs Thatcher: I recognize this was a very difficult decision for the Secretary of State for Defence to reach. There are many competing claims on the defence budget even though we have increased it substantially.

The defence capability of that ship is very, very limited, indeed. Therefore the Secretary of State felt there were other claims on the defence budget to which he gave even greater priority.

Privacy Bill next session

For £500 snoopers could obtain private and confidential information from personal medical, financial and police records on the Prime Minister, any MP, or any citizen, Mr Michael Meacher (Oldham, West, Lab) said.

Mrs Thatcher: I saw the newspaper report this morning, and shared his distaste that this information should be available. The Home Secretary (Mr William Whitelaw) will be introducing a White Paper this year. We regard legislation as urgent. I would hope it will come forward in the next session of Parliament.

Traffic law changes to cut load on courts

TRANSPORT

Changes in the law on fixed penalties *for certain road traffic* offences would reduce the burden on the police and the courts so that they could devote more time to more *serious* offences, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, said when moving the second reading of the Transport Bill.

Under the Bill, the fixed penalty would be £20 for an offence *which involved* an obligatory endorsement and £10 in any other case, or half the maximum fine for the offence, whichever was the less.

Mr Howell said the Bill's fixed penalty provisions would mean a radical improvement in the penal system for traffic offences and go a long way to free the resources of the police and courts *to tackle serious crime*.

The Bill also provided for the introduction of private capital into the National Bus Company and for the transfer of the testing of buses and lorries to the private sector.

He said the changes represented a further step in the review of traffic laws promised when the Government came to office. Fixed penalties at present were too often ignored by the offender, bringing the system as a whole into disrepute.

The NBC, like its competitors in the private sector, had benefited greatly from the 1980 Transport Act *which removed the* licensing restrictions on these services.

The result of this new freedom had been an unprecedented increase in the demand for coach travel, *wider choice for the* traveller and substantially lower fares on many routes.

The Government believed that a partnership with private capital would make it possible to improve on these results still further, to the advantage both of the NBC itself and its employees and customers.

It was the intention that the NBC would retain a significant share in this business and the Bill provided for the establishment of an employee shareholding scheme, which meant that the workforce would themselves have a stake in the expansion of the coach market.

Similar opportunities existed in the case of National Holidays. Powers included in the Bill were designed to provide an opportunity for this private sector involvement.

It would not be possible to achieve this overnight, because each of them represented a coherent business, and they were not companies as such and did not therefore at the moment constitute fully identifiable units with proven track records which could provide a basis for the sale of shares.

He had asked NBC to let him have proposals for accounting the Express and National Holidays either jointly or as seperate and distinct company accounts.

He also proposed *to* set a *financial target for both* businesses to sustain the momentum towards further improvment.

The NBC and its subsidiaries owned property assets with a book value of more than £100m. Those properties had great potential but the company had been unable to finance major development within the resources available from public funds. As a result there were under-utilised sites and the facilities for the travelling public were far less attractive and extensive than the company would wish.

There was an opportunity for using private capital to unlock the potential of the NBC's property assets and enable the company to offer more attractive facilities. The NBC chairman had said he would welcome the *involvement of the private sector* on this process.

The company would take immediate steps to strengthen its capacity for bringing forward property development schemes in conjunction with the private sector, so as to be in the best position to make use of the powers conferred by the Bill.

The Bill also provided for the transfer of the annual testing of lorries and buses out of the Department of Transport. Clauses provided a framework for a system under which an approved testing authority would employ authorised inspectors to carry out the work of annual testing and some related functions.

An alternative approach would be to seek to involve several private sector companies in testing. If he adopted that approach he would begin by setting up a company, wholly owned by the Government, which *would take over testing initially* and prepare for the second stage of development of the system.

He would be holding further consultations with the road transport industry before reaching a decision on the organization of the new private sector scheme.

Existing safeguards against the danger of faulty buses and *lorries would* in no way be reduced. Before handing over any of this work he would want assurances that safety standards would at least be maintained and possibly improved.

Far from weakening present controls his aim was to harness the resources and energies of the private sector to improve the system. Nothing in these proposals interfered with the enforcement activities of the department which were vital and of growing importance and which it was his intention to develop and strengthen.

The *right* of an alleged offender to contest the charge in court was not affected by the proposals for extending the fixed penalty system. Those who wished to acknowlege liability *for the offence* might settle the matter by paying a fixed penalty rather than going through the court process. It was not proposed to have on-the-spot fines. This was simply an *extension* of the present ticket systemm where the fine was paid subsequently.

Changes were being made to make fixed penalty enforcement more effective. This would not *only be fairer to* motorists who obeyed the parking laws but an increased deterrent to illegal parking and therefore a substantial contribution towards relieving the serious traffic congestion *which it could and did cause*.

It was proposed that in the absence of any response to the notice issued, either by payment or request for a hearing, the penalty would automatically be treated *as if it were a fine* imposed on conviction. It would be imposed by the courts, together with an amount to cover expenses, without the need for a court hearing.

Mr Albert Booth, chief Opposition spokesman for transport (Barrow-in-Furness) said that in the 1980 Transport Act, the Government, by the de-regulation *of express bus services, had* expected a massive increase in the number of private express services which would run the NBC off the road. But the Government had failed, and the NBC had operated the 1980 Act in such a way as to expand by some 50 per cent their own express coach operations.

Now the Government was taking revenge on the NBC for the role it had taken over instead of the private sector.

The Government seemed to believe there was some way in which it would be possible to extract those profitable express services from the other business of NBC. This showed a total misunderstanding of the integrated way in which the company operated and had been the reason *for its success*. The Government's action threatened irreparable damage to the network.

The Government's decision to press on with the proposal to sell commercial vehicle test stations *to the private sector showed how* fanatical it was devoted to the destruction of the public sector. Although it had tried hard to persuade a lot of people that this proposal to hive off might have some merit, it had failed.

The Government was playing politics with road safety. there were serious risks of commercial malpractice not only affecting high standards, but affecting the impartiality with which testing was undertaken.

More police

The number of police officers in England and Wales on December 31, 1981, was 119,575 compared with 111,493 on May 1, 1979, and 96,844 on January 1, 1972, Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office, said in a written reply.

The number of civilian staff employed by the police forces on the same dates were 44,174, 42,854 and 38,397 respectively.

Estimated total staff costs for 1981-82 were £1,672.8m; costs for 1979-80 were £1,136.7m and for 1971-72 were £278.4m.

New system for nurses' pay sought

HEALTH

The Government was anxious to make good progress in developing more satisfactory permanent arrangements for nurses' pay, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said during questions in the Commons.

He said he had just circulated a paper setting out his views about possible approaches and suggestions for taking *matters further*, which he hoped to discuss with representatives of both sides of the Whitley Council.

I would like this meeting to take place (he said) as soon as *possible and* certainly before the end of the month.

Sir William van Straubenzee (Wokingham, C): The history of this matter has been periods of erosion followed by a catching-up process. This underlines the urgency of finding a newer and more proficient system of negotiating pay.

Mr Fowler: This is why we are seeking a permanent new arrangement which many in the profession regard as their number one aim.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab): There will not be any such new arrangement in the current financial year. Meanwhile, there is a strong rumour, to *put* it no higher, that the Government will insist on an increase of 4 per cent for nurses this year.

If so, the whole nation which is behind the nurses in this campaign, will be appalled and angered at this niggardly approach to the most worthwhile profession in the country.

Mr Fowler: There is no question of this Government's commitment to nurses. Since we *came to office 21,000 extra* nurses have been employed in the National Health Service.

The nurses' pay bill had increased by 76 per cent since the Government took office — which showed the value the Government placed upon nurses, Mr Fowler said during other questions. But he refused to be drawn into discussing the forthcoming pay negotiations, saying that these were a matter for the Whitley Council.

Mr William Hamilton: In the same period the armed forces and the police have had substantially *higher increases* than the nurses. Nurses are as important to the community as policemen or soldiers.

Mr Fowler: I accept, agree and am committed to seeking fair treatment for the nurses.

Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C): If the Government could be sure that other employees in the public sector would not jump on the bandwagon, would he turn his attention favourably to a settlement for the nurses considerably in excess of 4 per cent?

Mr Fowler: I am not prepared to be drawn *prior to the meeting* of the Whitley Council.

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, Opposition spokesman on health (Crewe, Lab): Why does he not come clean and admit he is cutting back on the standard of nurses' pay, because he has done it in two previous years?

Mr Fowler: That is rubbish. We have devoted £1,000m extra to the nurses' pay bill.

Mr Lewis Carter-Jones (Eccles, Lab): Is he happy with the pay nurses get?

Mr Fowler: It is a matter for the Whitley Council. We have sought over *the past 2½ years* to treat the nurses fairly. That is why the pay bill for nurses has increased by 76 per cent.

Hamilton: Nurses as important as police

Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C): The figures show that on a supply and demand basis the present pay levels of nurses cannot be far wrong.

Mr Fowler: We want to see a permanent new arrangement where the nurses can achieve a fair deal year after year. What both sides want to avoid is the kind of annual crisis which has been a feature of the past ten or 20 years.

Pensioners to see minister on Monday

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said that he had arranged to meet representatives of the National Federation of Old Age Pensioner Associations on February 15, when he expected to discuss among other things the level of benefits for pensioners.

Mr Andrew Bowden (Brighton, Kemptown, C) Who questioned the minister, said: One of the things greatly concerning the *federation* is that anybody with savings in excess of the present level of £300 is not eligible for the additional heating supplement for those on supplementary benefit.

Would he review this soon, particularly as many of those people put their £300 aside to pay for funeral expenses?

Mr Fowler: I understand entirely. *We are considering* the £300 limit for single claiments. On the general question of fuel benefit, we are spending over £250m a year to help with that. We will look again at the point he has raised.

Mr Robert Cryer (Keighley, Lab): Is he seriously suggesting that the Government cannot possibly increase the benefits to pensioners, who are often in desperate circumstances, when it has spent or is in process of spending £1,000m on re-modelling Polaris.

Mr Fowler: He appears to be implying that we are not having an increase in benefits. We have increased pensions by 52 per cent in line with inflation.

Shopping law unsatisfactory

SHOP HOURS

There was not yet sufficient agreement between all the interests concerned about relaxing the trading hours for shops for the Government to bring in *legislation*, Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, said in a Commons written reply. He indicated that the Government accepted that shops legislation was unsatisfactory and *did not correspond to modern patterns of* living.

However, the Government could find no ground of principle for opposing Lady Trumpington's Shops Bill — (which was being debated in *the House of Lords*) — and proposed to maintain an attitude of benevolent neutrality during the proceedings on that Bill which would provide a further opportunity for Parliament *to express its views on the* subject.

Replying to Sir Anthony Meyer (West Flint, C) who sponsored a Bill last year on shopping hours and Sunday trading, Mr Whitelaw said that he had sought to assess whether, in the light of the past unsuccessful attempts to amend the law and of present attitudes, sufficient agreement exists on which to base proposals for new legislation.

Having studied the history of unsuccessful attempts, including the debate on February 20, 1961, on the second reading of Sir Anthony's Bill to amend the legislation in the light of the Gowers report of 1947 and the report in 1964 on the Law of Sunday Observance.

I am of the opinion (he went on) that there is not yet sufficient basis of agreement between the various interests concerned for the Government to seek to introduce legislation on this subject at the present time, though we are aware of the mounting pressure for reform.

☐ Lady Trumpington (C), moving the second reading of her Bill in the House of Lords, said present law on Sunday opening was bad. The Bill would give shops the right to open and close when they wished.

It seems scarcely credible (she said) that it is legal to buy *delicious prawn balls and chips* from Chinese takeaways but illegal to buy delicious fish and chips from a chip shop. It is indicrous, a piece of lunacy.

Nearly two-thirds of people *interviewed had supported* the principle in her Bill. Such a change would help unemployment and the financial stability of shops. Tourists would spend more.

She was not advocating a compulsory seven day week opening or a compulsory seven day week for shopworkers. Those who provided homes with gas and electricity on Sundays, *for instance, worked a five-day* week though it might include Sundays.


Trumpington: Law is indicrous lunacy

Lady Phillips (Lab) said the churches worked on Sundays. Perhaps one reason they did not like this Bill was that they would be in competition for customers. (Laughter.)

Lady Seear (L) said that change was wanted along the lines of the Bill, but in these days of unemployment and the desire of *many women to get work, she* could envisage smaller shops with inadequately organised labour forces where the unlimited permission to work the hours chosen by the employer might lead to considerable abuse. She was not convinced that the country wanted to move over to a fully commercial Sunday.

The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Rev Maurice Wood, said that the general view of the church was that Sunday should remain the normal day of rest. The pressure on family life was already great. Such a large number of homes had the father and mother out to work, with latchkey children, that Sunday opening would be one more nail in the coffin of family life.

It was not a narrow religious regard which said that people did not want Sunday opening. The rhythm of rest and working days which was so important to the good social well being of the nation, would be imperilled.

Viscount Mackintosh of Halifax (C) said, in a maiden speech, that it was surprising that it should be legitimate to sell confectionery but not tea and coffee on Sundays. The Bill provided an opportunity to have fresh legislation to meet market forces.

It would effectively create employment and benefit shop workers with no additional cost to the Government. Not only would the consumer benefit, but so would the shop worker.

Lord Young of Dartington (SDP), president of the Consumers' Association and a former chairman of the National Consumer Council, said that the consumer bodies were in favour of giving freedom to shopkeepers to open and close when they wished.

It was a straightforward case of freedom of choice. Consumers should be able to buy what, where and when they wanted if it was worthwhile for suppliers to sell to them. The law should not prevent consumers exercising that basic *freedom of choice*.

Lord Jacques (Lab) said the Bill would turn Sunday into just another Saturday. Many traders who did not wish to open would *be forced* to do so for fear of losing part of their trade.

It was difficut to get staff even on Saturdays. Many of the best staff, mostly women, many of whom were married, would leave if there should be Sunday opening.

The Bill was read a second time.

Government eager to see BR succeed

RAIL DISPUTE

It was sad to see one rail union destroying the opportunities for change to which their other unions colleagues had responded so positively Lord Bellwin, Under Secretary of State for the environment said.

It was not the case that the Government lacked faith in the railways. If British Rail management and unions could resolve the impasse and produce a business performance to justify further investment, the Government remained ready to play its part, Lord Bellwin said during the second reading debate on the Government's Transport (Finance) Bill.

We are eager (he said) to see British Rail succeed but their problems are formidable.

A prosperous future for the railways with more investment could be secured only if Government, management and unions played their part.

The Government's policy was not one of despair—it was quite the opposite. The Government had agreed there would shortly be a review of railway finances under an independent chairman. The review would be concerned with British Rail's objectives and the way in which the railways were planned.

Lord Underhill, for the Opposition, said that it was essential that the dispute was clarified and settled at the earliest opportunity in the interests of the travelling public, Aslef members, members of other unions involved and of British Rail.

This country (he said) must have a rail system, but the present situation is dangerous for the future.

The Bill, which increases the financial limit on the aggregate borrowing of the British Railways Board and which has been through the Commons, was read a second time.

Union Bill passed

EMPLOYMENT BILL

The Government had a majority of 107 at the end of Monday's debate on the Employment Bill. The Bill was given a second reading by 348 votes to 241.

During the later stages of the debate:

Mr Cyril Smith (Rochdale, L) said a government concerned to create partnership and seeking proper understanding of the relationship between pay, prices, investment, productivity, employment, good industrial relations and a successful economy would be very different from the present administration.

He would vote for the Bill on second reading. He welcomed its closed shop proposals, which were better than nothing, and all in all there was *much in it* with which he agreed. He rejected the notion that it was a union-bashing Bill.

Mr Michael Shaw (Scarborough, C) said that while the Bill might be changed in detail during its passage through the House, it already represented a reasonable and necessary measure of reform. He hoped that the debates on later stages would be conducted in a reasonable and constructive manner. It was of the utmost importance that the subject was treated in that way.

Mr Ian Mikardo (Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow, Lab) said it was a calculated offence to the three million unemployed that the Bill, which was a mechanism for carring out a *piece of extreme right wing Tory* ideology, should be called the Employment Bill. The first amendment which he had drafted to the Bill was to delete "employment" and insert "anti-trade union". There should be an honest and accurate description of the Bill.

Not only would the Bill not create employment it might harm *the economic health of the* country by the friction and dislocation it might cause.

Mr James Prior, the former Secretary of State for Employment, would not have introduced *the Bill. He would be interested* to see if Mr Prior had an inescapable commitment in Belfast which would prevent him voting for the Bill tonight.

Mr George Gardiner (Reigate, C) *said the debate had brought out* the blind incomprehension of the Opposition of the need for any reform of industrial relations practice or trade union law.

It was disappointing that they *had not* taken the opportunity the Bill offered to reform the law in such a way as to encourage procedural agreements and their observation.

Mr John Prescott (Kingston upon upon *Hull, East, Lab*) said it was a hostile Bill which could destroy the National Union of Seamen if allowed to continue. His was a unique industry which was a closed shop *with members in all* quarters of the world at the same time.

Mr Michael Martin (Glasgow, Springburn, Lab) said the Bill attacked workers and implied it was only workers who created problems in industry, and not employers. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Mr John Gorst (Bernet, Hendon, North, C) *said most of the shrill* tones of protest from Labour MPs were an echo of the sort of protests heard down the ages from barons, bishops and monarchs who had had powers curtailed.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): *Questions:* Transport. Scottish rate and housing support grant orders.
Lords (2.30): Debate on the rating system.

US says it will not use chemical weapons first

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 9

President Reagan has formally told Congress that he wishes to resume the development of chemical weapons, but has reaffirmed United States policy against using them first.

The formal announcement that manufacture was planned came yesterday in a letter required by law to Mr "Tip" O'Neill, the Speaker of the House.

In the absence of a verifiable treaty banning the use of chemical weapons the United States must deter their use by denying any significant advantage to an enemy, the President's letter said.

"Such a deterrence requires modernization of our retaliatory capability as well as improvement of our chemical warfare protective measures", the President wrote.

The President's decision to go ahead with the manufacture of a new nerve gas for chemical weapons, foreshadowed in *The Times* last week, is likely to renew concerns in Europe of the United States military intentions in the event of a conflict with the Soviet Union.

As with the neutron bomb, chemical weapons are most likely to be used in a European rather than an intercontinental war. But no decision has been made on their deployment and in his letter the President has tried to allay fear by pointing to the United States' willingness to enter negotiations for a treaty to prevent their use.

Development would "provide strong leverage towards negotiating a verifiable agreement banning chemical weapons", he said, and restated American policy not to use them first.

No chemical weapons have been manufactured in the United States since 1969 when President Nixon renounced the use of germ warfare and said it would not use chemical weapons unless attacked with them.

Last year, by a narrow margin of two votes in the senate, the President won approval for $20m (£10.7m) for new equipment to make nerve gas. His letter refers to production of "lethal binary chemical munitions".

Binary chemical weapons are those where two nonlethal chemicals are combined in a projectile while in flight to its target. On impact the projectile releases a lethal nerve gas.

In his defence budget for 1983 the President has asked for $705m for chemical warfare compared with only $532m in 1982 for protective measures such as gas detection systems and protective clothing. The new amount will clearly go to gearing up for production.

Geneva: In a bleak assessment of the disarmament negotiations outlook, Mr Eugene Rostow, director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, announced today that under present circumstances the Reagan Administration does not envisage a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons tests (Alan McGregor writes).

He was addressing the 40-nation United Nations disarmament committee which for years has had the attainment of such a ban as the top item in its agenda. This was also the object of tripartite negotiations here — between the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union — which began in 1977 but have been in suspense for more than a year.

For the fact that nothing has been achieved in disarmament over the past decade, Mr Rostow blamed "the expansionist policy of the Soviet Union and the past the extraordinary military build-up on which it is based" together with disregard of Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter that forbids the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

In response to this build-up, the United States, its allies and many other nations had "reluctantly undertaken the burden of modernizing their armed forces in a belated effort to restore the military balance". A comprehensive test ban now would not help to reduce the nuclear weapons threat or to maintain the stability of the nuclear balance, he said.

"Troubling questions have arisen about Soviet compliance with international agreements concerning chemical and biological warfare", he added. New evidence from South-East Asia indicated use of prohibited lethal mycotoxins", particuarly cruel and inhumane weapons".

In replying, Mr Viktor Israelyan, the Soviet delegate, assailed the "incredible" United States military budget as an "unbridled arms race in elaboration of further types of weapons for a first strike". The Americans were seeking qualitative superiority, with production of new nerve-gas weapons as part of the programme, he emphasized.

Leading article, page 11

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Nixon fails to halt use of tapes

Washington — A United States appeals court has dismissed former President Nixon's appeal that the Federal government is acting illegally in processing his White House tape recordings for eventual public screenings.

The court also ruled that the Government was using proper and constitutional methods to separate Mr Nixon's "Diary" recordings, which will be returned to him on privacy grounds, from other recordings that will be made available to the public at 11 designated centres.

The panel's decision upheld a ruling by a lower Federal Court. Mr Nixon had claimed that the procedures violated his constitutional right to personal privacy, political privacy and the Presidential privilege of confidentiality.

The tape recordings played at the Watergate trials are already available for public listening in Washington, but they contain only a portion of Mr Nixon's White House tape recordings.

Scuffling as spy leaves

Jakarta.—Indonesian authorities had hoped to keep the expulsion of the Soviet assistant military attaché Lieutenant Colonel S. P. Egerov, but were forced to make the incident public after an airport scuffle, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Colonel Egerov was ordered to leave within 24 hours. He was accused of espionage. But while he was being seen off at Halim airport on Saturday night, Indonesian security officials approached Mr Alexander Finenko, chief representative of Aeroflot, the Soviet airline, with a warrant for his arrest and a fight ensued.

Bonn exceeds Nato target

Bonn — The West German Government has announced that contrary to expectations the increase in its defence spending last year was higher than the Nato target of 3 per cent.

Herr Kurt Becker, the Government spokesman, disclosed that the increase was 5.2 per cent nominally and 3.4 per cent in real terms. Nevertheless, forecasts that the target will not be met in 1982 and doubts about the value of increased spending for its own sake have created a strong impression, particularly in the United States, that West Germany is dragging its feet in this field.

Robbers grow more deadly

New York — More robberies in New York are ending with murder, in what police describe as a growing wave of violence by criminals who are better armed and increasingly ready to shoot their victims.

A police analysis says robbery-related killings in the city increased by 36 per cent between 1976 and 1980 with 1,011 people killed by hand-guns in 1980, compared with 765 people in 1976. The national figures dropped slightly.

Picket broken by armed men

Caen. — A private army led by the owner and carrying guns and tear gas grenades broke through picketing strikers at a dairy near here to rescue 700,000 camembert cheeses.

The 125 staff at the dairy had planned to sell the cheeses because they claimed they had not been paid for January. They have been occupying the factory for a week, demanding a shorter working week. The workers have now started court proceedings.

Cosmetics blast kills three

Hanau, West Germany.—At least three people were killed and six were missing when an explosion badly damaged a cosmetics factory at Bruchkoebel, near here. Twenty were injured, 13 of whom were taken to hospital.

There were ten people inside the plant when the explosion occurred in the mixing room of Kosmetikfabrik Reinelt, a company producing hair sprays, liquid soap and body lotions. The injured included passers-by and staff arriving for the day shift, Herr Udd Mueller, the manager, said.

Jazzman in coma

Englewood, New Jersey.—The jazz pianist, Thelonious Monk was reported in a coma in an intensive care unit here after suffering a stroke, officials said.

Correction

A report of statistics issued by the Wine Development Board (February 2) stated incorrectly that sales of light wines were 15 per cent up. In fact the board said light wine sales went up but gave no figure.

EEC urban policy demanded

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Feb 9

Civic leaders from several of Britain's largest and most depressed cities gave a stern warning today that unless the EEC quickly defined an urban policy there would be great disenchantment with the Community.

They were giving evidence on the severe problems facing the inner cities during the first public hearing of the intergroup of local representatives of the political groups in the European Parliament in Brussels.

Over the past two days mayors and senior officials from cities throughout the Community have been discussing the need for a unified scheme for urban development with representatives from the Parliament. For the British representatives, however, the promise of more reports and proposals which emerged at the end of the meeting was not sufficient.

Mr Illtyd Harrington, deputy leader of the Greater London Council, said after the meeting that it was time Europe gave a higher priority to spending on urban policies rather than on agriculture. Unemployment in the Stepney and Poplar areas of London was, at 25 per cent, the highest in Europe.

M Gaston Thorn, the President of the Commission, admitted that the Community did not have an urban policy as such.

Mr Harrington was less than impressed. "Unless they get down to defining an urban policy", he said, "it is going to be very hard to sustain any interest in this organization."

Solidarity's rights backed by Pope

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Feb 9

The Pope today insisted that the key to the solution of the Polish crisis lies in the regime's treatment of the Solidarity free trade union movement.

He was addressing a group of European trade union leaders including representatives of Solidarity. He said that the Polish trade union "is and remains an autonomous and independent union faithful to its initial inspiration, refusing violence even in the difficult situation in which it is living, intent on being a constructive force for the nation."

The problems of Solidarity were not simply a Polish affair but, in their origins and effects, "the affair of the whole world of work in its entirety".

The Pope said: "the restitution of effective and total respect for the rights of working men and especially their right to a union, in fact already created and given legal authority, constitutes the only way out of this difficult situation."

Without this respect for human rights the normalization of life in society, the development of economic life and the safeguarding of culture in all its expressions remained impossible, he said.

The speech can be said to have added the intensity of feeling on the principal practical issues felt at the Vatican after the more generic appeal here on Sunday by the Polish Primate Archbishop Glemp for reconciliation.

In his sermon at the Polish church here, the Archbishop had talked of Polish society as sick, and saw the task of the church to help overcome this illness in the way Christ himself cured sickness.

The Pope said that he had in mind those men and women in Poland who had been harshly affected by martial law imposed two months ago; "those who have lost their lives, or have been wounded, arrested or detained, who have been judged and severely punished, who have lost their jobs because of their convictions".

He had in mind those who In the midst of great difficulties, preserved hope and remained faithful to the will to seek for Poland the road to justice, of the rights of man, of peace and of truth.

He reminded the trade unionists that a year ago he had received Mr Lech Walesa and other representatives of Solidarity at the Vatican. "At that meeting", he added, "there was present the head of the delegation of the Government of the Popular Republic of Poland for permanent working contacts with the Holy See.

"I expressed on that occasion my joy in knowing that on November 10 the statute of the free trade union Solidarity had been approved and thus the legitimacy of the existence and of the specific activities of this union had been recognized."

It escaped nobody, the Pope continued, that Solidarity was born at a difficult moment for Poland, in part as manifestation of the sense of responsibility of the workers, and of the desire to accept the specific responsibilities deriving from hard work.

Hopes were momentarily disappointed, the difficulties and obstacles created and the harsh restrictions imposed not only on members of Solidarity but on all the population "cannot make us forget that this union has aquired, and possesses always, the character of authentic representation of the workers, recognized and confirmed by the organs of power".

He made clear his feeling that the role of the union was not political in the sense of a search for political power in society, but in the nature of a general social importance.

The two speeches — of the Pope and of the Primate — are taken here to provide a composite picture of the limits and the areas of activity in the Catholic Church's work in Poland.

They can be taken as marking the essence of the long series of talks which the Pope has had here with the trio of Polish bishops. He is still clearly hoping that the regime will listen to his appeal for reinstatement of the union and an end to fundamental rights.

Poles turn East for more help

Warsaw, Feb 9. — Polish planners are turning to the East for more help in propping up the country's collapsing economy because of the West's firm reaction to military rule.

General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the military leader, has ordered his experts to work out by next month interim measures to reduce the excessive dependence of industry on imports, and a programme for expanding economic cooperation with Comecon, the Soviet block's trading community.

The turn away from the West has been dictated by economic sanctions and suspension of new credits by the United States and its allies, which have dealt severe blows to prospects of reviving flagging industrial and farm production, senior Polish officials say.

The Western measures, demonstrating disapproval of the suspension of civic rights and internment of thousands of government opponents, have left the Poles even shorter than they expected of hard currency to purchase raw materials and other supplies for their Western-equipped plants and food for the 36 million people.

The change of economic emphasis was embodied in a programme approved by the Council of Ministers last Friday.

General Jaruzelski told provincial officials in Warsaw yesterday that Poland was relying on further aid from communist countries to help to strengthen its economy.

He also called for a comprehensive, long-range plan for overcoming the crisis to be ready by the autumn. This would aim at restructuring the economy so that Poland regained its economic sovereignty and made better use of its own raw materials.

A plan for some of Poland's Comecon partners to exploit idle production capacity in Polish industry, aired already last year without any apparent significant result, has been revived and was advanced at a meeting of a Comecon planning commission in Havana last month, official press reports here said. Reuter.

Weinberger signs up reluctant Saudis

Muscat, Feb 9 — The United States and Saudi Arabia have agreed to establish a joint committee on military matters, Mr Caspar Weinberger the United States Defence Secretary announced today.

The group, called the Joint Committee for Military Projects, was set up after long and apparently tough negotiations. It had been long sought by Washington, and United States officials said it was the Saudis clearest move yet towards public military cooperation with United States.

One high offical described it as "more formalized, structured relationship".

Its establishment was announced by Mr Weinberger at a joint press conference in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia with Prince Sultan IBN Abdulaziz the Saudi Defence Minister. Mr Weinberger then flew to Oman, the second stop on a nine-day, three-country Middle East tour.

While both men said they were pleased with their talks, totalling more than 12 hours over three days, Prince Sultan did not mention the military committee and made clear they did not see eye to eye on every issue, particularly Israel.

The Prince said he had urged the Reagan administration to take a strong stand against "stupid acton taken by Israel", apparently referring to recent Israeli moves such as its annexation of the Golan Heights and the bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor.

"These are provocative actions and we hope that the administration of President Reagan will take a stand, because it has stronger relations with Israel", the prince said.

Mr Weinberger said only that he had raised with the prince "the vital necessity of the United States having warm friendly relationships with several countries in the Middle East and not confirming our friendships to one country".

A spokesman later said that Mr Weinberger had identified both Israel and Saudi Arabia as friends of America in the region.

American officials would not say, however, that they had signed a formal agreement in which Saudi Arabia pledged to respect conditions set by Congress last October when it agreed after a bitter battle to sell the Saudis five Awacs.

Mr Weinberger also said for the first time in public that American Awacs will remain on station in Saudi Arabia until the Saudis' own aircraft arrive in late 1985.

Although Prince Sultan said nothing about the new committee he appeared to play down military ties between the two countries, saying that a cooperative relationship was based not on "military endeavour" but areas such as economics and technology. — Reuter.

□ Jerusalem:—Israel "will never descend from the Golan Heights," Mr Yitzhak Shamir the Foreign Minister said today in a stinging rejection of the United Nations resolution calling for an international boycott of the Jewish state following its annexation of the territory (ACP reports).

Euro-MPs move towards sanctions on S Africa

From Ian Murray Brussels, Feb 9

The European Commission has been asked by the joint committee of the European Parliament and the Lomé countries to prepare a report analysing the effects of economic sanctions against South Africa. Arms and nuclear embargoes are already envisaged by the committee.

The request is just one part of a detailed and hard-hitting resolution agreed, with five abstentions among the 102 delegates, after a fact-finding mission to the front line states at the end of last month by a small mission from the joint committee.

The resolution says that "economic sanctions have to be incorporated into a programme of increasing pressure on South Africa". It adds that there should be an end to economic expansion and investment there and says that any state "which on account of major difficulties cannot apply such sanctions fully should at least agree to the gradual implementation of such measures".

The resolution was described by Signor Giovanni Bersani, the parliament group leader as "a great step forward in the fight against apartheid". It was the first time, he said, that a parliamentary institution had taken a common stance to establish a programme of action for the problems of southern Africa.

It was adopted in Salisbury, Zimbabwe, during the regular meeting between the parliament and Lomé states. While there it was announced that around £3m of EEC aid was to be made available to help South-West Africa People's Organization refugees and for a training programme for Swapo youths in Denmark.

Copies are to be forwarded to the United Nations Secretary General, to the European Commission and to the Council of Ministers.

European trade with South Africa in 1980 in £m

	Imports	Exports
West Germany	697.3	1,019.4
Britain	742.7	935.9
France	479	388.9
Italy	594.1	239.1
Belgium/ Luxembourg	1,017.1	102.2
Denmark	54.6	23.2
Ireland	5.9	9.1



Tommy Manotoc (left) and the Philippine Defence Minister face the press

Manotoc tells of rescue raid

From David Watts, Singapore, Feb 9

Tommy Manotoc, the Filipino sportsman who was kidnapped three weeks after a secret wedding to the daughter of President Marcos, reappeared in Manila today claiming that he had been held by communist guerrillas.

Mr Manotoc, a basketball coach and amateur golfer, appeared at a press conference flanked by Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the Defence Minister, to tell of how he had been freed last night after a raid on the guerrillas' camp in the mountains east of Manila.

But his story did little to throw light on the circumstances of the case which had cast suspicion on the Marcos family who were opposed to his marriage to the President's daughter, Imee.

The couple were married in Arlington, Virginia, on December 4 after a clandestine courtship in the Philippines.

Mr Enril told the press that in the attack by a special military group on alleged camp of the communist New People's Army in the Sierra Madre mountains one man was killed but not one of the kidnappers was captured.

He said that they had found Mr Manotoc "trembling intensely, badly shaken and haggard" and had taken him immediately to military headquarters in Manila.

Mr Manotoc looked pale and uncertain as he told his story today. He shied away from questions about his controversial marriage saying that it was very personal, later adding in answer to another question: "There are very few things left in my life that are very personal."

Mr Manotoc had last been seen on the night of December 29 last year in the expensive Las Conchas restaurant having dinner with the 26-year-old Imee.

The entire case since that moment has been a chapter of bizarre incidents involving ransom notes in a language which Mr Manotoc never used to his family; what his brother claims was a forged signature on the first of the two notes; and psychics warning the family against certain actions.

The whole affair was made more intriguing by the fact that the Filipino authorities operated a virtual news black-out on the case. Despite claims by the President that there was a big manhunt in progress, basic investigation was not carried out.

Mrs Imelda Marcos appears to have been opposed to the marriage.

Mr Manotoc's brother, Ricardo, told *The Times* in an interview last week that the first the family had heard of the kidnapping was when Imee called the following day December 30 to give the news.

Mr Ricardo Manotoc said that after he spoke to Imee President Marcos came on the line to tell him that he had the armed forces on alert. He quoted him as saying: "Please be discreet. Don't report it to the police."

French try to reassure business

Paris, Feb 9.—M Michel Rocard, the Minister of Planning and standard bearer of the right wing of the French Socialist Party, assured French and American industrialists today that the Government could control its Communist ministers.

"We are the first generation of Socialists not to be intimidated by the Communists. The days have gone when Socialists and Communists met and Communists always won," he told 300 businessmen at a conference on the Government's economic policies.

M Rocard, who last year challenged M Francois Mitterrand for the party's presidential nomination, said the French Communist Party was in decline despite the presence of four Communist ministers in the Cabinet.

Nine socialist ministers led by Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister have been driving home the message during the two-day meeting that the Socialists do not oppose big business and want to encourage new industrial investments in France in order to create jobs.

Several ministers have insisted that president Mitterrand's election slogan to "reconquer the domestic market" does not mean that France will block imports to protect its hard hit electronics, wood, toy, leather and domestic appliances industries.

IRA's smuggling route watched for 18 months

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 9

United States immigration officials revealed today that they have kept watch on a highly sophisticated Provisional IRA smuggling route between America and Northern Ireland for at least 18 months. Senior Royal Ulster Constabulary officers in Northern Ireland apparently cooperated closely in helping to identify the people involved.

The United States Department of Immigration decided to expose the route. Exposure comes at a time when Mr Owen Carron, Republican MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone and Mr Danny Morrison, publicity officer for Provisional Sinn Fein in Belfast, are facing charges of entering the country illegally. They are due to return to the United States to face the charges on March 8.

Prominence is given to the exposure of the route because Immigration officials said they had discovered a safe house in Toronto used by Irish Republicans. The procedure involved the use of either forged passports or legitimate passports containing false details and photographs.

Five Belfast men, three of them Canadian residents, were arrested as they crossed the Whirlpool Bridge near Niagara Falls from Canada to the United States on Saturday were still in custody tonight. Mr Rodger Williams, the United States district attorney, was studying evidence supplied by the Department of Immigration before deciding whether to charge the men with illegal immigration with intent to commit a crime.





Mr Owen Carron

At least a dozen smuggling operatons by Irish Republicans have been allowed to pass unhindered in the past 18 months in order to piece together precise details of then operation.

A discovery of equipment capable of producing an almost exact replica of the official Irish stamp has delighted the Department of Immigration. One source said: "It wasused to stamp the passport photographs. It would be difficult to tell it from the real thing. It was very professional".

The Department of Immigration established a special anti-smuggling unit in the Buffalo area close to the Canadian border in New York State 18 months ago after the arrest of an Ulster man

Reagan defends his budget in the 'heartland'

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Feb 9

"You have to get about 50 miles at least away from Washington to get to the real world", President Reagan declared to loud applause at a fund-raising function in Minneapolis lastnight.

Making his first political tour of 1982, Mr Reagan decided to get well away from the capital; to the Middle West, to the snowcovered plains of Minnesota, Iowa and Indiana which comprise America's "heartland".

The main purpose of this trip is to sell to the nation his concept known as "new federalism" which was at the centre of last month's State of the Union address. Under this plan 43 federal programmes covering transport, education and community develoments would be returned to the states.

However, in speeches delivered in Minneapolis and Des Moines, the President spent as much time defending his comtroversial 1983 budget proposals as he did promoting federalism.

President Reagan apparently believes that opposition to his budget, which called for massive cuts in social programmes and equally massive increases in defence spending, is coming mainly from "elitists" and "pundits" in Washington, New York and other eastern cities.

However, the noisy demonstrations which greeted him in Minneapolis and Des Moines showed there is also great concern among ordinary working people in the "heartland" about spending cuts, defence increases and the President's failure to address himself to the country's most pressing problem; unemployment.

"The President seems to be completely out of touch with what life is like for us," said Mr Robert Milner, one of the Minneapolis demonstration organizers. But the President was not moved by this display of dissatisfaction. In his speeches he made it clear he was not going to cut defence spending. "We will not back down from our commitment to make America strong enough to remain both free and at peace".

Nor was he going to give in to pressure to raise taxes because the tax cuts already approved by congress were an essential part of his economic programme. Mr Reagan chose to come to the rural Middle West because most people around here vote Republican and his pledge to "return government to be governed" seemed certain to appeal to their sense of independence and local pride.

However, judging from initial reaction, the President will have to sell his "new federalism" theme with more verve and vigour if it is to supercede economic problems as the main issue in the November midterm elections.

President Reagan emphasized that his programme to restore the partneship between state, local and federal government was born from the same philosophy as his economic recovery plan. "They spring from an abiding faith in the American people, and in our ability to govern ourselves," he told the staste legislature in Des Moisnes.

He emphasized how an increasing number of local matters, such as fire protection, police pensions and pothole repairs, had been taken over by central government. Although the original intentions of big government had been good, the result had been overwhelming inefficiency and waste.

Nkomo followers taken to task over arms

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Feb 9

Military leaders of the main opposition party in Zimbabwe have been summoned by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, and asked to explain how tons of military hardware came to be hidden during last year's operation to disarm former guerrillas.

The weapons, sufficient to arm a brigade and including anti-aircraft guns, ground-to-air missiles and automatic rifles, were found last week on farms linked with the Patriotic Front of Mr Joshua Nkomo.

In an interview in Bulawayo yesterday, Mr Nkomo denied that he or his party were aware that arms had been hidden at the farms and said they might have been concealed "by some person to be discovered at a convenient time."

He said Mr Mugabe's speech at the weekend accusing the Patriotic Front of plotting against the ruling Zanu (PF) party was "unfortunate" and denied categorically that his party planned any rebellion.

Referring to the discovery of the arms on farms owned by the Patriotic Front, he said: "We have been in the hide and seek business for 30 years. After that we would not be caught with weapons in our own house."

Mr Nkomo's denials will not convince Zanu (PF) members that the quantity of arms found could have been concealed on Patriotic Front land without the knowledge of at least some members of the organization.

Mr Mgabe, who discussed the matter with Mr Nkomo last Friday, will have left him and his military commanders in no doubt that all other hidden weapons must be given up if mistrust in their long-term motives is not to deepen.

An undisclosed number of Patriotic Front officials living on the farm have been arrested and the Army and police are continuing to search for arms in Matabeleland.

There has been no suggestion so far that the weapons were about to be used and it is understood that they are part of a vast arsenal, of Zipra, the Patriotic Front military wing, only some of which was handed over to the authorities to be taken to munitions storage dumps in Salisbury and Bulawayo.

The remainder was concealed during periods of recrimination, such as the Entumbane fighting between supporters of the Patriotic Front and the ruling Zanu (PF) party last year.

After the ceasefire in the guerrilla war in 1979 quantities of arms supplied to Zipra by the Soviet Union and held in Zambia were taken by rail across the border.

Strike ban under fire in India

From Kuldip Nayar, Dehli, Feb 9

The Communists are the first to criticize the Central Government's decision to declare 16 categories of industries as essential services under the National Security Act.

The industries include road, rail, water and air transport and telecommunication services. Forty-six private and public undertakings were declared as essential services a few months ago.

Workers in essential services cannot go on strike and those who try can be detained without trial.

The new decision of the Government was necessitated by a Supreme Court judgment that no one could be held without trial on charges prejudicing supplies and services unless what was considered essential by the Government was made known to, the public in advance.

Defence services, defence production and customs services are also covered by the central Government's decision.

The Communists have said that the Government was out to suppress ruthlessly the fundamental right of the working class to strike.

Meanwhile, Mrs Indria Gandhi, the Prime Minister, has said that chief executives who fail to show adequate performance in the public sector should be removed. Her emphasis is on production and she has spoken out against all forms of disruption.

Odinga hits out at government

From Charles Harrison Nairobi, Feb 9

Mr Oginga Odinga, a former Vice-President of Kenya, who has been barred from political office since forming a short-lived opposition party in 1966, today publicly attacked the Kenya Government's economic policies and its agreement to grant military facilites to the United States.

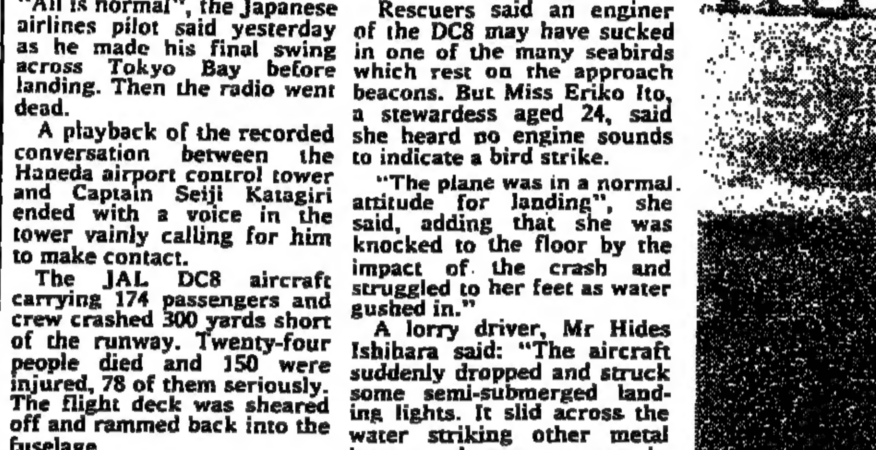
Kenya agreed last year to provide supply and storage facilites for American naval forces in the Indian Ocean, and has long had close and friendly relations with the British Army, which has carried out training operations in Kenya on several occasions.

Mr Odinga was speaking at a press conference in Nairobi today, He had been attacked by Mr Stanley Oloitiptip, the Minister of Local Government and a member of the Masai tribe, for his role in his own Luo tribe.

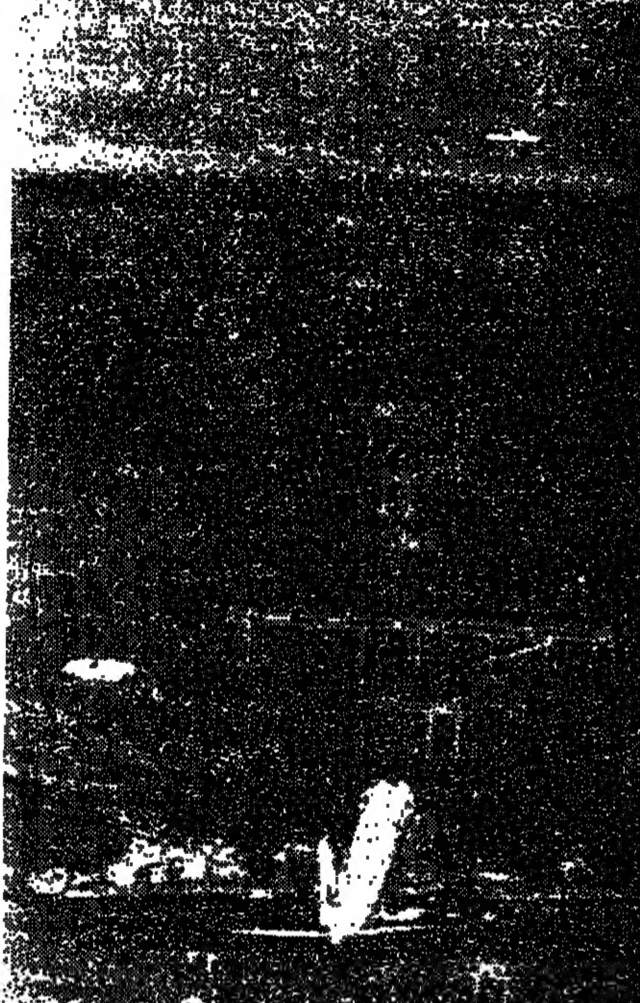
Criticizing Mr Oloitiptip for allegedly failing to give clear leadership to Kenyans, Mr Odinga said there had been "systematic plunder" of Kenya's resources, and there was now mass unemployment

"Attempts to explain away this sorry state of affairs in terms of high oil prices and international inflation are unacceptable."

Expressing regret at difficulties in Kenya's relations with neighbouring African countries, he said that the granting of military facilites to a foreign power without the consent of the people had helped to erode those relations.



Survivors waiting on the wings of the striken aircraft and, below, an aerial photograph showing the runway.



Airliner crashed 300 yds short of the runway

By Our Foreign Staff

"All is normal", the Japanese airlines pilot said yesterday as he made his final swing across Tokyo Bay before landing. Then the radio went dead.

A playback of the recorded conversation between the Haneda airport control tower and Captain Seiji Katagiri ended with a voice in the tower vainly calling for him to make contact.

The JAL DC8 aircraft carrying 174 passengers and crew crashed 300 yards short of the runway. Twenty-four people died and 150 were injured, 78 of them seriously. The flight deck was sheared off and rammed back into the fuselage.

About a mile from touchdown the aircraft suddenly lost height, and hit the sea ploughing across the surface snapping landing lights like matchsticks.

Captain Katagiri is in a serious condition in hospital. The co-pilot and other crew all survived but were badly injured.

All but one of the passengers on board the flight from Fukvoka city were Japanese. The foreigner was air official of Korean Airlines, JAL said.

Fishing boats and inflatable rescue craft rushed to the stricken aircraft slowly sinking in shallow water. The survivors struggled on to the wings to be rescued.

Fire department helicopters trailing slings and nets took turns to lift them off. Eight hours after the crash the last person on board, an unidentified crew member, was winched to safety.

Rescuers said an enginer of the DC8 may have sucked in one of the many seabirds which rest on the approach beacons. But Miss Eriko Ito, a stewardess aged 24, said she heard no engine sounds to indicate a bird strike.

"The plane was in a normal attitude for landing", she said, adding that she was knocked to the floor by the impact of the crash and struggled to her feet as water gushed in."

A lorry driver, Mr Hides Ishibara said: "The aircraft suddenly dropped and struck some semi-submerged landing lights. It slid across the water striking other metal lamps and came to rest in shallow water about 300 yards short of the rnway".

The commander of an All Nippon Airways Tristar which landed ahead of the DC8 said the weather was clear and he experienced no problems with the wind.

Japan Airlines has enjoyed an accident free record for the past 10 years since one of its DC8 airliners crashed at Moscow airport in November, 1972, killing 62 people.

Japan's worst air disaster occurred in 1971 when an Air Force fighter crashed into a Boeing 727 in mid-air, killing 162 passengers and crew.

☐ **Manila:** A chartered DC3 aircraft carrying Japanese tourists and filippino escorts crashed in thick clouds into a mountain in central Philippines yesterday killing six people and injuring six critically.

Amnesty condemns Belgrade

By Richard Dowden

Nearly 600 people were prosecuted for criticizing the Yugoslav Government in 1980, almost double the number in 1979, according to Amnesty International.

Already in 1981, says the human rights organization, more than 800 people have been convicted of political offences, mainly connected with the disturbances in the Kosovo region in March last year.

Amnesty's report on Yugoslavia, published today, claims that many political prisoners were convicted under loosely-framed articles in the constitution which make it possible "to imprison individuals for exercising constitutionally guaranteed rights in ways disapproved of by the authorities".

According to the Federal Public Prosecutor 94 per cent of political crimes brought before the courts in 1980 were "verbal offences". Other catch-all phrases in the constitution quoted in the report are "hostile propaganda" and "maliciously and untruthfully representing conditions in Yugoslavia".

Under the latter phrase Dr Fanjo Tudjman, the Croatian historian, was tried in Zagreb last year for giving three interviews to foreign journalists in which he said that Croatia's economic interests were not guaranteed.

He was convicted and sentenced to prison for three years with a five-year ban on public expression. His case is pending appeal.

Father Nedjo Janjic, a 23-year-old Serbian orthodox priest, is serving a four and a half year prison sentence for inciting religious and racial hatred. He had sung nationalist songs at his son's christening.

The report also says that emigrés have been kidnapped and murdered, probably by the Yugoslav secret police; that prison conditions are poor; there are isolated cases of physical and mental torture of prisoners; and there is discrimination against dissidents in employment.

Yugoslavia Prisoners of Conscience (Amnesty International, Tower House, 8 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HF).

German dons seek racial purity

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Feb 9

A group of West German university professors have called for action to stop the infiltration of the German people by foreign workers.

In terms reminiscent of the Naziera the 15 professors issued a manifesto calling for the founding of a politically and ideologically independent association for the preservation of the German people and its spiritual identity.

They suggested the Government should "Strike at the root of the evil" by improving the foreign workers life, through development aid in their home countries "and not here with us".

They did not say how the repatriation of West Germany's 4.6million foreign residents was to be achieved. But the foreigners' return would bring the country not only social but also ecological relief, according to the professors.

The manifesto was drawn up last year by a group of professors calling themselves the Heidelberg Circle and circulated among colleagues with a request for signatures and financial support. Not yet intended for publication, it was leaked to the press apparently by left-wingers who found a copy in a Bonn telephone box.

The language was chillingly similar to the racialist jargon of the early Nazi era. "Peoples", it said "Are living systems of a higher order with different characteristic — characteristics that are passed on gentically and by tradition". It speaks of the "well-known ethnic catastrophes of polycultural societies".

"Every people, including the German people, has a natural right to its own identity and characteristics in its own living area. . . .only vibrant and intact German families can preserve our people for the future".

The professors insited that they firmly support the democratic constitution and that they were against any form of nationalism, racialism or political extremism.

Evidently upset by the adverse reaction in the press 11 of the professors issued a statement yesterday saying the text of the manifesto had merely been a provisional one. The adverse criticism they claimed was the result of "a defamation campaign by radical leftists".

Nevertheless, they insisted that there would be very serious conflicts in West Germany if the Government did not tackle the problem.

The manifesto has confirmed the Government's growing fears that the numbers of foreign workers and dependents here will breed racialism and social tensions without wise handling. Brought in to supply much needed manpower during the years of the economic miracle, the foreigners are less welcome in a recession with the jobless figures creeping up to two million.

There is already much resentment among the German neighbours in the working class areas where they tend to congregate. A particular problem are the huge mumbers of Turks, who with their very different customs and traditions, are less willing than European foreign workers to be assimilated into German society.

Carrington impressed by Asean

From David Watts, Singapore, Feb 9

Lord Carrington ended his tour of the five countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) in Singapore tonight more aware of the complexities of the struggle for Cambodia. Encouraged by the dynamism and stability of Asean, but with little prospect that difficulties with Malaysia will be eased in the medium-term.

The Foreign Secretary's talks in the five capitals have been with the heads of state and of government of each one and have covered the whole gamut of interests from trade and investment to the East-West power balance.

Fortuitously he was in the area just as the Khmer Rouge rejected proposals to join the loose coalition of Khmer oppositionists. Thus he has had the unusual experience of watching Asean policy at first hand begin to shape for the next stage of the struggle for the future of Cambodia.

From the refugee camps on the Thai-Cambodian border to the high-gloss technology of an exhibition of offshore oil technology in Singapore, where Britain was the largest exhibitor, the Foreign Secretary has seen Asean and confronted Whitehall's most pressing regional problem — trading relations with Malaysia.

He did not expect to achieve a breakthrough and, judging by the generally hostile reaction of the Malaysian press to the proceedings, it will take a long time before there is any prospects that Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister, will consider lifting his prohibition on government purchase of British goods when there are comparable alternatives.

Not even the Archangel Gabriel could have changed Dr Mahathir's attitude in an hour, the Foreign Secretary said in a radio interview today. At best, the British government has bought the problems out in the open and clarrified at least some of the misunderstandings.

Judging from Dr Mahathir's non-acceptance of a number of Lord Carrington's explanations of key irritants, notably on the rules of both the London Stock and Metal Exchanges, much of what he said fell on stony ground.

The best the two sides could manage at the end of their meeting was to express the hope that it would help to improve matters. There were, however, no plans for further meetings and the matter now rests with the Malaysians, who have before them the British proposal that a joint commission be set up in an attempt to anticipate future problems and neutralize them before they become unmanageable.

The resolution of the other principle issue in Lord Carrington's talks, the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia, could well take years.

At his final press conference tonight he hinted strongly that the countries of Asean might start concentrating on the "third force" idea of building up the Khmer People's National Liberation Front of Mr Son Sann and Prince Sihanouk's Moulinaka.

Letter from Brussels

Obstinate lifts test Community spirit

It is easier to get in to the European Commission building than it is to get up it, or for that matter down it. This basic fact of Community life is something which nine Portuguese politicians and officials found out the hard way recently when they were stuck in the lift at the Berlaymont Building.

It is possible that during their 25 minutes jammed between floors they had time to reflect on whether they were being given a pointed hint that their negotiations to join the EEC were likely to end up nowhere. Symbolically enough, one report claimed they were stuck between the tenth and eleventh floors in the Ten's administrative beadquarters.

It takes time, patience and understanding to come to terms with the eccentrically obstinate lifts which are meant to deliver Eurocrats, secretaries and Commission hangers-on to the appropriate level of their working life.

Commission lifts come in two sizes. There is the compact six-person (average 80 kilogramme or 12½ stone each) variety which lines the back of the entrance hall. It was in one of these that the Portuguese came to grief. Nine of them weighed a sufficient amount over the statutory 480 permitted kilogrammes that the struggling lift ground to a halt.

Then in the hallways behind the entrance foyer lurk the giant economy 18-person (average 77.7 kilogramme each) variety which stop — from time to time — at the actual floors.

The small lifts tend to be the more popular, not because the average harmonized Community lift-passenger weighs 80 rather than 77.7 kilogrammes, but because they are slightly more accessible. They also have green strip-lights round their doors, rather like those round a sleazy nightclub entrance, which flash on and off when they arrive, which is not often.

The arrival of a Commission lift is a relatively rare occurrence. Indicator lights chart their progress as they climb and descend the building, leapfrogging each other from floor to floor,. But it would delight a man from Ladbrokes if he could gather in the bets on which one is likely to arrive first.

The long wait for a lift means there is usually a crowd in excess of six, or with a cumulative weight above 480 kilogrammes, when the flashing green lights eventually announce a lift's arrival. As the Portuguese found, the lifts do not take kindly to being overloaded.

The problems are not confined to Portuguese novices. Even experienced Europeans come to grief in lifts. Last week Viscount Etienne Davignon, a commissioner since 1977, told a news conference that he had been stuck in a lift with the secretary of one of his fellow commissioners. "Neither of us have been quite the same since", he admitted.

Usually they emit a buzz like a baritone bee as their sensitive floors realize that excess baggage has come on board. It is here that the experienced Community lift passenger comes into his own. One method of stifling the buzz and starting the journey is for a strong member of the lift-crew to seize the handrails round the side and hoist his feet off the sensitive floor. The lift, presumably having satisfied itself that only the regulation 12 feet are on board, shuts its doors and sets off.

Sometimes actually climbing safely on board a lift is not in itself enough to make the journey. A month or so ago, when Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, visited the Berlaymont, his security men checked the lifts, with discouraging results for those who wanted to leave his news conference and tell the world what he had been saying.

A large 77.7 kilogramme-per-person lift arrived at the first floor just as the conference broke up and the regulation number, give or take one or two, squeezed on board. The lift set off, upwards. At each of the 12 remaining floors it stopped unbidden, opened up and waited for passengers who either never came or who could not get in.

At the thirteenth floor it paused respectfully among the commissioners and then set off down again, stopping dutifully at each floor. It arrived at the ground floor 12½ minutes after leaving the first floor.

It might be wondered why anyone should bother to take a lift up one flight of stairs. The answer is that the stairs in the Berlaymont are so well hidden most people do not know where they are.

Ian Murray

Nunn wins opening chess game

By Harry Golombek

The English players got off to a fine start in the West European zonal tournament which began at Marbella, Spain, on Monday. The event is the first step in a series of qualifying tournaments for the world championships, and out of the 22 contestants at Marbella, three go on to play in the inter-zonal contest later this year.

Both English players won their games in Group A; the grandmaster John Nunn beating Gomez (Andorra) and Nigel Short beating Seret of France.

Other results: Langeweg (Netherlands) 1; Doyle (Ireland) 0; Van der Wiel (Netherlands) 1; Galego (Spain) 0; McNab (Scotland) 0; Fernandez (Spain) 1; Ligterink (Netherlands) had the bye.

English players were also successful in group B where the grandmaster Michael Stean beat Van der Sterren (Netherlands and Mark Hebden won against Kläuner of Luxembourg.

The third English player, the international master Jonathan Mestel, is clearly winning in his twice-adjourned game against Meulders (Belgium).

Other results: Rivas (Spain) beat I. C. Jones (Wales); the game between the grandmaster Donner (Netherlands) and Blow (Jersey and Guernsey) was postponed because Donner was indisposed. Sanz (Spain) had the bye.

EEC court rules on pop record

From Our Own Correspondent Brussels, Feb 9

Two versions of the Bee Gee pop group's record "Spirits Having Flown" have been occupying the attention of judges at the European Court recently. After an involved hearing the court today decided which of the two should be sold in European shops and which should be excluded.

The dispute began when the British company RSO handed over its British rights in the record to Polydor, one of its subsidiaries, and at the same time licenced two Portuguese companies to manufacture the same record.

The Portuguese records were significantly cheaper than those being made in Britain and a British importer, Simons, bought the cheaper version and imported it into Britain.

Polydor and RSO claimed that the Portuguese records were breaking the law and asked for a ban on their sale. The British Court of Appeal ruled that marketing the Portuguese records constituted a violation of the Copyright Act.

The European Court decided that the Portuguese records could not benefit from the rights of free circulation of goods available to records made in the member states. Therefore RSO and Polydor were quite correct in opposing their sale.

Distributor bans sale of The Times in Turkey

Ankara.—In a move described as "precautionary self-censorship," two British newspapers and a French paper were not distributed in Turkey by their importing agent. A spokesman for the agent, the Turkish Hachette, listed the papers as *The Guardian*, *The Times* and *Le Matin*.

The spokesman, who would not be named said that the three newspapers were not distributed to Turkish subscribers as a "precaution" in line with a recent military edict which forbids reprinting by the local media of foreign press news items unfavourable to Turkey.

A martial law command spokesman in Istanbul said they had issued no orders in connexion with the distribution of foreign newspapers. The Hachette spokesman would not say what it was they found objectionable in the latest editions of the three newspapers. The company runs bookstores in Istanbul and Ankara and handles the distribution throughout Turkey of most foreign publications.

Since the Army ousted the civilian government in Turkey 16 months ago, restrictions have been placed on the Turkish press. A military communiqué issued in June, 1981 bans all political controversy and discussion of past, present and future, this applies to former politicians as well as to the media.

However, there is no pre-publication censorship. Newspaper editors have been advised to exercise "self-control" along guidelines set by the military.—AP.

Law Report February 10 1982 **Court of Appeal**

Minister's reasonable use of Draconian power upheld

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Norwich City Council

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice May

[Judgment delivered February 9]

The Secretary of State for the Enviroment did not misdirect himself in fact or in law but acted fairly and legally in deciding to exercise the Draconian power given to him by section 23 of the Housing Act 1980 to take over the process of sales of a local authority's council houses to tenants who had difficulty in exercising the right to buy given to them by the Act.

The Court of Appeal, in reserved judgments, dismissed an appeal by Norwich City Council from the dismissal by the Divisional Court (Lord Justice Donaldson and Mr Justice Robert Goff) on December 18, 1981 (*The Times*, December 19) of their application for an order of certierari to quash a decision of the Secretary of State for the Environment by notice of December 3, 1981, to use his powers of intervention under section 23 of the Housing Act 1980 in respect of Norwich council tenants who had claimed to exercise the right to buy council houses given them by the Act.

Section 23 of the 1980 Act provides: "(1) Where it appears to the secretary of state that tenants . . . have or may have difficulty in exercising the right to buy effectively and expeditiously, he may, after giving the landlord . . . notice in writing of his intention so to do and while the notice is in force, use his powers under . . . this section . . .".

By subsection (3) while such a notice is in force the secretary of state "may do all such things as appear to him necessary or expedient" to enable tenants to exercise the right to buy.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

Mr Nigel MacLeod, QC, and Mr Charles Cross for the city council; Mr Simon D. Brown and Mr John Laws for the secretary of state.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the case raised party politics but the issues were only to be decided according to law.

Local authorities owned a great number of council houses which had been built to house those in need. They had received housing subsidies for the purpose. They had become the subject of much controversy.

The Housing Act 1980 gave council tenants the right to buy their houses at a big discount; sometimes at half price. Some local authorities thought that it was undesirable because houses were taken out of their housing stock so that they were no longer available for those desperately in need of accommodation.

Norwich City Council owned about 25,000 dwellings; about half of all those in the city. When the 1980 Act came into force many tenants claimed the right to buy. But there seemed to be endless delays.

The tenants became upset and complained to the secretary of state about the delay. After trying without much success to get the city council to hurry things up he took the drastic action of taking all the sales out of the council's hands and into his own hands. The council disputed his right to do so and asked for his order to be quashed.

The Act of 1980 gave tenants of three years standing the right to buy their council houses and to leave the whole or part of the price on mortgage with the council. A tenant could serve a notice on the council claiming to exercise his right to buy.

Within four weeks the council had to admit or deny the right to buy. If the right was admitted the council had "as soon as practicable" to serve a notice on the tenant stating the price at which in the council's opinion the tenant was entitled to buy the house (section 10). If there was any question about the value of the house it was to be determined by the district valuer (section 11).

Section 23 had given a most unusual power to the secretary of state. If tenants had difficulty in buying their houses he could take the whole process out of the hands of the council, step in and conduct all the sales himself.

In October 1980, the first month when the Act was in force, 452 tenants claimed the right to buy; in the first year it was 900.

There were complaints of delays. It was said that the council did not get the valuations done quickly enough and when they were made, they were too high.

Many tenants appealed to the district valuer and got them reduced. By May 20, 1981 the council had admitted in 803 cases that the tenants had the right to buy, but no sale had been completed and the council had only stated a price after valuation in 35 cases.

In May 1981 the Department of the Environment took up the matter with the Norwich City Council. Meetings were held and letters exchanged. The council made some improvements but never enough to satisfy the secretary of state.

One stumbling-block was the time taken to make valuations. The council said that they had not the staff to make more than a few valuations a week and could not divert other staff to make the valuations.

The secretary of state said that the district valuer could be employed to make the valuations.

The council said that that was not legitimate.

Covenants which the council wanted put in the conveyances were said to be unduly onerous to the tenants. The council said that the maps affixed to the conveyances had to be on the large scale of 1/500: whereas the secretary of state said that the scale of 1/1250 was quite sufficient.

The secretary of state said that all outstanding valuations should be completed by February 1982 but the council could not promise them before June.

The secretary of state took the view that the council's delays were so serious that he would be justified in using his powers under section 23 of the 1980 Act.

Section 23 (8) authorized the secretary of state to retain the purchase moneys without paying interest thereon.

Section 23 (9) authorized him to recover the costs from the council as a debt. There might be a large sum which would have to be borne by the Norwich ratepayers.

The secretary of state took the view that the conduct of the Norwich councillors might amount to "wilful misconduct" so that they could be surcharged under section 162 of the Local Government Act 1972.

After a warning letter of October 29, 1981, sent to all members of the council, a meeting was held on November 5, 1981, attended by councillors and officers of the council, the members of Parliament for both the Norwich divisions, the secretary and minister of state and officials of the Department of the Environment.

The secretary of state said that the council should consider putting to him a new timetable, should go back to the district valuer and advise all members of the personal consequences they faced.

On November 11, 1981, the council set out their answer in a letter saying that they were trying to keep a balance between the need not to increase their staff costs and the various claims on their resources in the housing and employment fields which could not be neglected. The council said that to use the services of the district valuer would conflict with his appellate role under the Act.

The council's letter concluded that local government in the country could not continue except on the basis of cooperation between central and local government — within a tradition that the secretary of state made reasonable requests and a local authority made reasonable compliance according to the individual circumstances.

On December 3, 1981, the secretary of state made his formal order under section 23.

On the same day the council applied to the High Court to quash his decision. On December 18 the Divisional Court refused the application. The city council appealed.

The charges against the councillors were: (1) slowness in issuing section 10 notices due to delay in making price valuations; (2) delay caused by "counselling" interviews; (3) over-high valuations; (4) unreasonably onerous covenants; (5) poor performance compared with other local authorities; (6) failure to employ district valuer; (7) insisting on assignments instead of new tenancies so that a tenant who wanted to exchange his house for another would lose his right to buy.

The court had to consider a most coercive power in a minister of the Crown, a "default power". It enabled a minister, if he considered that a local authority was not performing its duty, to declare that the authority was in default and to take steps to ensure that the function was properly performed.

This default power enabled the central government to interfere with a high hand over local authorities. Local government was such an important part of the Constitution that the courts should be vigilant to see that the default power was not exceeded or misused.

Whenever the wording of the statute permitted the courts should read into it a provision that the default power should not be exercised except in accordance with the rules of natural justice: *Board of Education v Rice* ([1911] AC 179) and *Ridge v Baldwin* ([1964] AC 41).

The minister was dismissing the local authority for default in carrying out their duty and replacing them by his own civil servants. Fairness required that that should not be done unless they were told what was alleged against them and had had an opportunity of answering it.

The minister's decision was open to judicial review. If he did not act in good faith, or if he acted on extraneous considerations which should not have influenced him, or misdirected himself in fact or in law, the court in a proper case would set his order aside: see *Padfield v Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food* ([1977] AC 997).

The city council were under a duty to state the price to the tenant "as soon as practicable"; and to carry through the sale as soon as that reasonably could be done. If the council failed to do so "effectively and expeditiously", then the secretary of state could exercise the default power conferred by section 23 after telling the council of the complaints against them and hearing what they had to say. Even then he should not make the default order unless the default was unreasonable or inexcusable.

To stop misuse of the power of the central government over the elected representatives of the people, the minister's default power must be subject to control by the courts.

Many councils in order to state a price under section 10 at which they were ready to sell consulted the district valuer at the outset. But the Norwich City Council said that was not legitimate because under section 11 the district valuer was like an appeal body.

He should not be employed to make the initial valuation where he would sit on appeal from it to make the final valuation. "Justice should not only be done but should manifestly and undoubtedly be seen to be done": *R v Sussex Justices* ([1924]) 1 KB 256, 259). But that principle, like natural justice, must not be carried too far.

The district valuer's ordinary work was to make valuations for the rating list.

There his practice was for those in his office to prepare the draft valuation list; and then, if any ratepayer objected and proposed a different figure, for someone else in the office, the valuation officer or his deputy, to revise the valuation. That was in accord with the Rating Acts. It worked well in rating cases.

That system worked pefectly well also for the valuations under the Housing Act 1980. No tenant had ever objected. In half the cases the valuation was reduced. Only the Norwich City Council had taken objection.

Justice was in fact done by the final valuation being done by a senior officer quite distinct from the one who made the initial valuation.

The concern of the court was, as always, to protect the individual from the misuse or abuse of power by those in authority. The individual here was the tenant, to whom Parliament had given the right to buy his own home. Yet he had met with intolerable delay, which was the reponsibility of the Norwich City Council.

The council had acted, or failed to act, in complete good faith; but they were misguided. They were badly advised on many matters.

No one could excuse himself for his own mistakes by saying he did it on bad advice: *Federal Commerce & Navigation Co Ltd v Molena Alpha Inc* ([1978] QB 927,979). The council had shown too little concern for the rights of their tenants.

The statute had provided a remedy by giving the secretary of state power to make a default order. That should only be used after careful consideration.

The secretary of state had given it careful consideration. His order was within his statutory powers.

Pending the present proceedings the secretary of state had allowed the Norwich City Council to carry on with the selling of the houses. That held out hope for a solution.

If the city council would agree to use the district valuer to make the initial valuations and speeded up their procedure so as to avoid further complaints, there might be no need for the secretary of state to act upon his order. But that order was good. The appeal should be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE KERR, agreeing, said that section 23 of the 1980 Act envisaged a direct confrontation between the central and local authorities in relation to the administration of part 1 of the Act. It was the court's duty to rule on the legality of the minister's intervention. That involved no judgment of a political nature.

Whether or not it was right to descibe section 23 as a penal section, it was certainly Draconian. It required a strict construction so far as its terms permitted.

It had clearly been framed by Parliament in such a way as to maximize the power of the secretary of state and to minimize any power of review by the court.

The governing words were "Where it appears to the secretary of state . . ." The determinative factor was the view of the secretary of state; not the view of the local authority; not an abstract standard of reasonableness.

Two authorities gave the most helpful guidance on the interpretation of section 23: *Secretary of State for Employment v Aslef (No 2)* ([1972] 2 QB 455,493) *per* Lord Denning and *Secretary of State for Education v Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council* ([1977] A.C.1014, 1047), *per* Lord Wilberforce.

The position under section 23 was different to that in the *Tameside* case: greater power was conferred on the minister than under section 68 of the Education Act 1944.

Section 23 of the 1980 Act might well be without precedent in such legislation. His Lordship was driven to the conclusion that the question which the court must ask itself was: "Provided the minister has properly directed himself . . . could he reasonably conclude on December 3, 1981, that council tenants in Norwich had in fact had, or might have, difficulty in exercising their right to buy effectively and expeditiously?"

The council could not be regarded as having acted unreasonably in approaching their obligations under the Act. But that was not the question under section 23 where the relevant words were entirely general and not related to any timetable in any other section. Further, the word "expeditiously" was simply geared to the view of the minister.

Looking at the history, there was overwhelming evidence that the council's policy in relation to the implementation of the Act was not merely one of lack of enthusiasm but what might be called passive resistance. As was only to be expected in a highly political piece of legislation, the council and the housing committee had divided on party lines.

One of the Draconian aspects of section 23 was that it did not require any prior process of consultation or warning.

No doubt, however, the minister must act fairly and the correspondence and meetings showed that he did not act unfairly in any way.

The issue concerning the district valuer had caused his Lordship the greatest anxiety. But the affidavit sworn on behalf of the minister said that his decision to intervene was not based on the council's reluctance to use the services of the district valuer for section 10 purposes.

Any challenge to the good faith of the minister had been expressly disclaimed before the court. In agreement with the Divisional Court his Lordship could see no basis which would entitle the court to interfere with the minister's decision under section 23.

LORD JUSTICE MAY, also agreeing, said that the wording of section 23 (1) was clear. The secretary of state had to consider whether the tenants had or might have difficulty in exercising their right to buy effectively and expeditiously.

His Lordship would not dissent from the proposition that the more Draconian the powers that were given to ministers, or others, whether by statute or the rules of a club, the more careful should be the person seeking to exercise those powers.

The secretary of state must act fairly and reasonably in exercising the powers given him by section 23 but it did not follow that a secretary of state was only entitled to intervene when the relevant local authority was acting unreasonably, that was to say was acting in a way no other reasonable local authority would act.

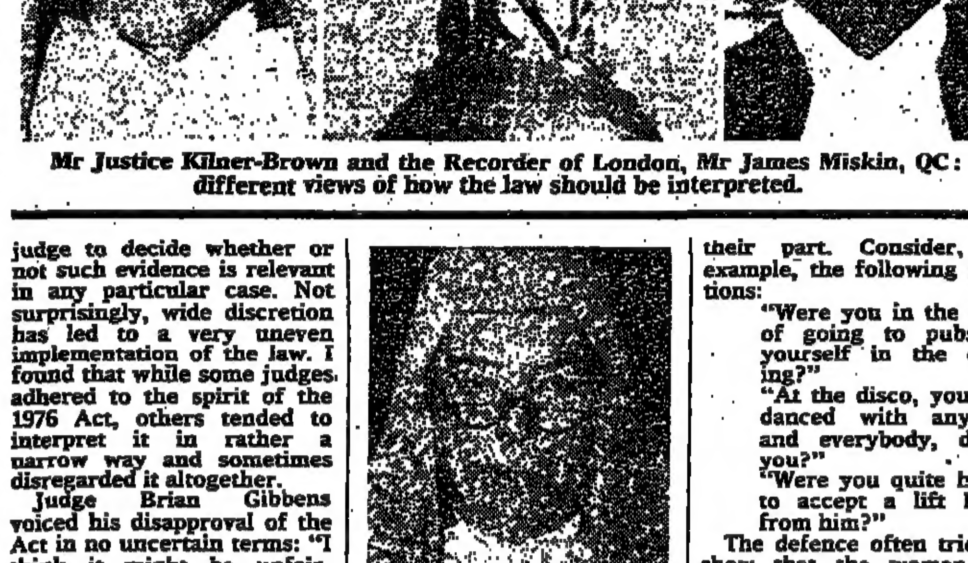
The general principle that justice must not only be done but be seen to be done was well known, but it was not to be applied without further thought to the circumstances of any particular case: see *per* Lord Justice Sachs in *In re Pergamon Press Ltd* ([1971] Ch 388,403). It was reasonable for local authorities to use the services of the district valuer's office as suggested by the secretary of state. Until the section 11 stage was reached, there had not been a determination to be appealed from.

Solicitors: Sharpe, Pritchard & Co for Mr R. Bamford, Norwich; Treasury Solicitor.

Inside the Old Bailey

How the rape law really works

The 1976 Sexual Offences Act was designed to protect rape victims from unnecessary cross-examination about their previous sexual experience. But is it working in practice? Zsuzsanna Adler sat in on 50 Old Bailey rape cases last year to find out. This is her disturbing report.



Mr Justice Kilner-Brown and the Recorder of London, Mr James Miskin, QC: different views of how the law should be interpreted.

Two particular trials which stick in my mind symbolize the inconsistencies and contradictions manifest in the operation of current rape laws. In the first case, a teenager was allegedly raped by a young man whom she knew as a friend. He was tried at the Old Bailey, and his evidence was that the complainant agreed to have sex with him and that, in any case, it was well known in the local community that she was promiscuous and easy. At the trial, she had to suffer the following interrogation from the judge, Mr Justice Kilner-Brown:

"— How old were you at the time of this incident?
— I was 16½.
— Had you had sex with anyone before this?
— Yes.
— With one boy, or more than one boy?
— More than one.
— And at the time, were you going steady with one boy?
— Yes.
— So whatever may have been reputation, were you going steady and was all that finished with?"

A couple of months earlier, in the very same court, a similar case was up before another judge. There, the young man wanted to give evidence of what he had heard about the alleged victim's past sexual history. The girl was 14 and, according to the defendant, she had been involved in various sexual activities with a number of boys at a party. The Recorder of London, Mr James Miskin, who was trying that case, did not allow defence counsel to cross-examine the complainant about any aspect of her sexual history. The jury had to reach their verdict without any knowledge of the alleged victim's reputation.

Leaving aside the fact that the jury acquitted in the first case and convicted in the second, the complainants' experience of the whole court procedure will have been very different. The kind of treatment that rape victims receive receive in court depends to a considerable degree on the attitude and sensitivity of the trial judge. Unfortunately, in my experience, the first approach illustrated here is rather more prevalent than the second.

In the context of a study on the law of rape, I attended some 50 contested trials and 30 cases where the defendant pleaded "guilty" at the Central Criminal Court in 1978-79. Press reports usually create the impression that gang rapes are not only particularly horrific, but also relatively rare. The reality of that turned out to be rather different: although these cases were undoubtedly horrific, they were by no means rare. During the year I spent at these courts, one in three trials involved two or more defendants.

My overall impression was that although the law works well for certain types of rape offences, it is unsatisfactory for the vast majority of cases which involve the issue of consent. The rape victim's harrassment by the court seemed reduced to a minimum in cases which conformed to the stereotype of the "ideal" rape. Here, the incident tended to be seen as an explosive sexual encounter between total strangers, the offender being a dangerous psychopath — rather like the recent case of the Tottenham rapist.

The "ideal" victim was either sexually inexperienced, or at least respectable — virginity virtually guaranteed a conviction. In any case, she did everything in her power to resist her attacker and had serious physical injuries to prove it. There seemed to be an assumption that anything other than such an offence was not rape at all. As one lawyer cautioned the jury: "This was not the case of someone being attacked in a dark alley by some sex-starved young man. These people knew each other.

The "ideal" cases, however, only represented about a third of the contested rapes tried at the Old Bailey during this period, and furthermore, most defendants involved in these pleaded "guilty". My observation was that about 80 per cent of contested trials did not belong to this category. In the majority of cases, the defendant and the complainant were known to each other and the standard defence was one of consent. Public concern with the protection of the rape victim and attempts at reducing the trauma involved in attending court have not led to much improvement in practice as far as these rapes are concerned.

The last major public outcry on the law of rape in 1975 (triggered, as the current one, by a number of disturbing media reports of grossly unfair attitudes to the victim and lenient sentences for the rapist) led to the appointment of the Advisory Group on the Law of Rape and subsequently, to seemingly significant changes in the law.

The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976 was expressly designed to protect the complainant from publicity as well as from hostile and distressing cross-examination in court. Limitations were placed on the introduction of evidence regarding her previous sexual experience. It is now up to the trial judge to decide whether or not such evidence is relevant in any particular case. Not surprisingly, wide discretion has led to a very uneven implementation of the law. I found that while some judges adhered to the spirit of the 1976 Act, others tended to interpret it in rather a narrow way and sometimes disregarded it altogether.

Judge Brian Gibbens voiced his disapproval of the Act in no uncertain terms: "I think it might be unfair, perhaps even more so in an older woman, to prevent cross-examination on sexual proclivities, but that is what Parliament wants . . . This wretched section overturns many of our habits in criminal trials". Such opinions, I felt, clearly had some influence on how judges interpreted and adhered to the law.

Leaving aside the strictly legal considerations involved in the operation of the 1976 Act, it was clear from my observation that individual judges had blatantly different approaches to complainants in rape cases. At some point in the course of giving evidence, most women became tearful or even acutely distressed. Attitudes by judges, again, were very variable. The majority were fairly sympathetic, particularly when the victim was young, and adjourned for a short while to give her time to recover.

Others were not only unsympathetic, but downright hostile. In one case, a 17-year-old complainant, who had been assaulted by two men she did not know, was having great difficulty in telling the court what had happened to her. She became very upset, crying and muttering "I can't, I can't say it . . .". Judge Edward Sutcliffe, looked at the jury and told her in a harsh tone and with considerable exasperation: "You're going to have to pull yourself together if you are going to give this evidence, you know".

Although the law imposes some limitations on the cross-examination of the complaintant about her sexual history with men other than the defendant, *there is no restriction about her prior relationship with the accused*. When a woman was known to have had a sexual relationship with a man who later raped her, no matter how brutally, her allegations was invariable viewed with extreme suspicion. One woman had been raped and severley beaten by her ex-boyfriend and the defence justified the incident with reference to earlier episodes of violence which, it was claimed, she accepted and possibly enjoyed. As his counsel suggested: "That night was no different to others — the beating may have been more severe, but that is all".



Judge Gibbens

'This wretched section overturns many of our habits in criminal trials.
I think it might be unfair, perhaps even more so in an older woman, to prevent cross-examination on sexual proclivities, but that is what Parliament wants....'

Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976

Section 2 sub-section one

If at a trial any person is for the time being charged with a rape offence to which he pleads 'not guilty', then, except with the leave of the Judge, no evidence and no question in cross-examination shall be adduced or asked at the trial, by or on behalf of any defendant at the trial about any sexual experience of a complainant with a person other than the defendant.

Sub-section two

The Judge shall not give leave in pursuance of the preceding sub-section for any evidence or question except on an application made to him in the absence of the Jury by or on behalf of a defendant; and on such an application the Judge shall give leave if and only if he is satisfied that it would be unfair to that defendant to refuse to allow the evidence to be adduced or the question to be asked.

Needless to say, the defendant was acquitted. Shortly afterwards, he was sentenced to life imprisonment (an extremely rare sentence) after pleading guilty to the rape of a woman who had minor physical injuries, but who was only slightly acquainted with him.

The defence tended to rely heavily on the old stereotype, apparently widely accepted by juries, that rape occurs as a result of uncontrollable sexual urges aroused by provocative women. Thus, victims were almost invariably accused of "leading on" their assailants. Provocative behaviour in this sense ranged from accepting a lift home to being out alone late at night. Defence lawyers had no difficulty in presenting women as provocative or sexually available. Their actions and motives were scrutinized at the slightest hint of what has been called contributory negligence on their part. Consider, for example, the following questions:

"Were you in the habit of going to pubs by yourself in the evening?"
"At the disco, you just danced with anybody and everybody, didn't you?"
"Were you quite happy to accept a lift home from him?"

The defence often tried to show that the woman put herself in a risky situation in order to shift the blame from the defendant: suggestions that she was not entirely innocent were used to imply that the defendant was not altogether guilty. Alleged victims were more or less directly accused of provocation in the most absurd situations: in one case, the defendant, who had never met the complainant before, broke into her flat in the middle of the night. All that didn't stop him from claiming that she consented, and during the trial, she was cross-examined as follows:

"— You wore no clothes in bed?
— No, I had on a quilt and a sheet.
— Were your breasts showing?
— No.
— I suggest that the quilt slipped and your breasts were showing".

The general character of the alleged victim was also frequently attacked in court. The jury's attention would be drawn to various facts about her — for example, that she lived in a squat, that her boyfriend had been in trouble with the police over drugs, that she herself had a drink problem or a criminal record. The relevance of such matters to the issue of consent is highly doubtful, but the general lifestyle of all but the most respectable victims was regularly scrutinized in this way. Discrediting her in general terms gave the defence grounds to ask the jury to disbelieve her rape complaint. As one lawyer said: "You've heard evidence about the sort of girl she is — you have to take that into account as a background of the case".

One favourite strategy used to discredit the complainant was to suggest that she had a history of psychiatric illness. Allegations of mental instability were sometimes made without any more concrete evidence than the victim's spontaneous mentioning of feeling depressed. However, where the defence had something more tangible to go on, such as past suicide attempts or periods of psychiatric treatment, the whole area became explored in great detail during the trial.

This would then be used by the defence to suggest that the woman's evidence was unreliable because of her psychiatric history. For example, "We have here a girl of 18. We know from the scars on her wrists that there is some history of attempted suicide. She might be confusing this with another incident". An alternative was to imply that the alleged victim was one of those dreaded women who spend their lives making unfounded rape allegations against innocent men.

The 1976 Act emphasized that the crucial element in the offence of rape is the lack of consent, not force. Nevertheless, rape victims were still expected to prove in court that they physically resisted to the utmost. Cross-examination on this subject tended to set up an expectation of how "real" victims behave, and the particular complainant's reaction was then measured against that:

"— Did you scratch his face?
— You don't think of that at the time.
— Surely, it's instinctive?
— I didn't have the strength to do anything.
— Did you try and run away?
— Yes.
— Did you hit him?
— No.
— Did you push him away?
— Yes.
— Kick him?
— You don't think of things like that; I've already explained".

When the complainant did not have at least some injuries, her story was rarely substantiated. On the other hand, severe injuries did not guarantee success for the prosecution. One young woman who had been locked into a room with her attacker all night eventually got away from him by jumping out of a second floor window. She broke her hip, and now has a permanent limp, but the defendant was acquitted. Another victim needed several stitches for a vaginal tear, and the defence argued that such injuries were perfectly consistent with consent. The expert medical witness, Dr Paul, had this to say: "There isn't a single obstetrician who has practised over five years who has not seen such tears as a result of consensual intercourse in non-virgins". In that particular case, the jury was not convinced.

When the alleged victim did not report the rape at the very first opportunity, her case was always regarded with great doubt. The defence speech would sound something like this:

"Afterwards, she doesn't go to the police, or anyone in the street to complain. She doesn't complain to her mother, which would have been normal. Is her conduct afterwards consistent with a person who was raped, or who consented?"

Apart from adding to the horrors of cross-exanination, a late report seemed to have quite an impact on the outcome of the trial. Convictions were significantly higher when an immediate complaint was made; and where there was a delay of more than 24 hours, the defendant was nearly always acquitted. Early reporting, however, did not mean that the woman would necessarily be believed. One woman, allegedly raped in a house in middle-class suburbia, ran naked into the street, screaming for help, in broad daylight. Nevertheless, the jury felt that she had consented and her assailant was acquitted.

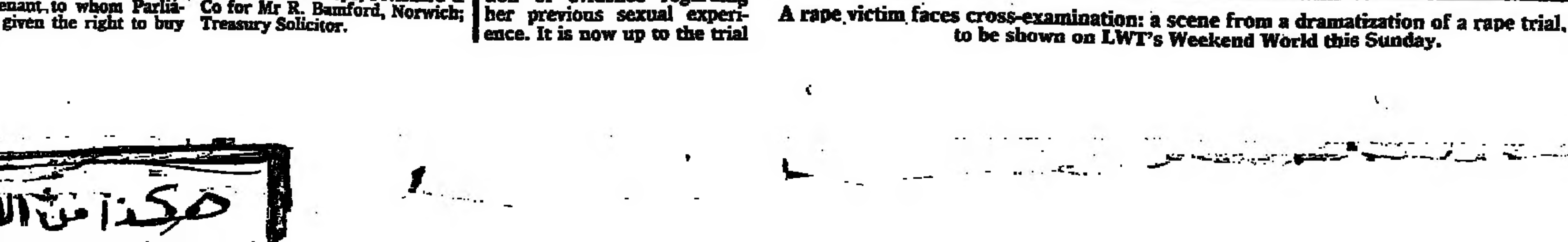
If all these attempts at discrediting the complainant and impeaching her credibility were not enough to sway the jury, the judge's corroboration warning often seemed to tip the scales against her. Although corroboration is not required in law, judges always warn the jury about the dangers of convicting on the woman's word alone. Some judges managed to do this in relatively neutral terms and to convey that the warning is given in all sexual offences irrespective of the victim's sex. Usually, however, the corrobation warning was loaded and prejudicial, rather like this one:

"Human experience in the courts has shown that woman and girls, for all sorts of reasons and sometimes for no reason at all, tell a false story which is extremely easy to fabricate but extremely difficult to refute".

Although the recent publicity surrounding rape has focussed on apparently exceptional and unusual cases, my experience suggests that attention should be directed at what happens in court on an everyday basis to the more "ordinary" cases. The victim continues to be on trial just as much, if not more, than the defendant. She gets the blame for what happened, on the grounds that she asked for it and probably deserved it anyway. While the defendant's rights must clearly be protected, the victim also deserves to be treated with dignity — a quality which certainly is not a distinguishing mark of current courtroom practice.

The author is conducting research at Bedford College, London, into the operation of the 1976 Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act.

A rape victim faces cross-examination: a scene from a dramatization of a rape trial, to be shown on LWT's Weekend World this Sunday.



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Interview

Keeping one jump ahead of the rest

A new company launches itself at the Haymarket Theatre tonight, with a brave choice of play and the versatile Trevor Peacock making a rare West End appearance. Sheridan Morley investigates.

The Theatre Royal, Haymarket, has in its long and distinguished stage history seen many attempts to form a permanent company there; Gielgud ran a legendary season in 1944-45 and more recently, in the middle 1960s, Ralph Richardson was at the head of a more shortlived Haymarket Rep. A few months ago, ambitious plans were announced for a Robin Phillips-Derek Jacobi season which came to nothing; but now, at last, the Haymarket is to have its own resident team once again for a series of at least three new productions running through until the end of the summer under the auspices of Triumph Productions.

They open tomorrow with *Hobson's Choice*, a brave starter not only because it has in living memory had acclaimed revivals at both the National and (only a few months ago) the Lyric, Hammersmith, but also because in casting Penelope Keith as Maggie Hobson the director Ronald Eyre has taken his new company's most immediately recognizable commercial asset and given her a stage image which may not altogether chime with the expectations of televiewers awaiting another joky Home Counties lady to the manor born.

Nevertheless Eyre has surrounded her with a strong team led by Anthony Quayle as old Hobson and, as Willie Mossop, the actor-composer-lyricist Trevor Peacock, for whom this will be a rare West End appearance.

The second son of a Tottenham evangelist (the other one became an assistant headmaster), Peacock went through Enfield Grammar doing impressions of his teachers and graduated from that to running the garrison theatre in Didcot during his national service; from early childhood, there had not been much doubt about a career: "My father would occasionally take us on family outings to 'suitable' plays at the Intimate in Palmer's Green. One night two fellows came on in the first act and the first one mentioned the word 'brothel' and father said 'Right, that's it, everybody out' and we all had to leave".

Soon after leaving the army, however, he met the pop director Jack Good and the two of them began doing an eccentric double act, first for Clement Freud's club on top of the Royal Court in Sloane Square and from there to the Windmill: "It was a very erudite sketch about an old Oxford professor and his pupil. God knows why Van Damm booked us, but there we were at three o'clock on a Monday afternoon trying to raise a laugh out of all these blokes in raincoats who'd come for a look at the strippers. Sometimes the stage manager used to laugh at us, out of pity I think, but that was about it. At least the Court used to let us finish up the customers' dinners".

But the meeting with Good also led Peacock into the music world, and within another year he was writing hit-parade numbers for Adam Faith and Jess Conrad and a highly profitable song called "Mrs Brown You've Got a Lovely Daughter" with which Herman's Hermits stayed at the top of the American charts for several weeks. At a party one night Peacock happened to meet the director Michael Elliott, now of the Manchester Royal Exchange, where most of his best and recent work has been done; Elliott said it must be wonderful to have made all that money so young out of the records, and Peacock said yes, except that he really wanted to be an actor, and that was how the next morning he found himself at the Old Vic playing 14 non-speaking roles in the Leo McKern *Peer Gynt*:

"I spent four hours chasing up and down the back stairs at the Vic either dressing up like a lemon curd tart to play a Troll or else trying to remember whether Third Peasant or Fourth Madman came next. In six plays at the Vic that last pre-National season, I finally achieved one line".

From there he went on to a solid fifteen years' slogging around the Reps including a brief stint with the RSC ("All those lads who have been there eleven years, I couldn't believe it; you have to jump about a bit in this business") before finally getting back to Michael Elliott when the Manchester company was formed. Along the way he also kept writing, most notably a stage play called *Collapse of Stout Party* and a film called *He Who Rides a Tiger*:

"I also wrote two other film scripts that never got made, and that used to depress me a lot until I met a very distinguished Hollywood screenwriter on a plane who said that was the best batting average he'd ever come across in a writer, one film made for three written. The average is apparently one in twelve, but I've stopped writing films now. And going to them. It's all rubbish".

Zoë Dominic



Peacock with Penelope Keith boldly cast in "Hobson's Choice"

Instead Peacock concentrates largely on shows at the Manchester Exchange and television (most recently a superb Quilp in *The Old Curiousity Shop* and one of the few characters actually to make himself understood in *The Borgias*). He also wrote the book, music and lyrics for a couple of highly successful Manchester musicals, one of which *(Erb)* died a terrible death in London while the other *(Leaping Ginger)* has not yet made it south. Undeterred, he is now hard at work between *Hobson* performances on a third — he and the composer Alan Price are doing a musical of the Andy Capp strip cartoon which opens at the Royal Exchange early this summer if they can find an Andy:

"What we really need is a young Max Wall, and there are precious few of those around, I can tell you; but I love working on musicals for Manchester. They break through that posh preserve of the Cheshire theatregoing belt and appeal to a quite different city audience; most people, you know, would as soon plan a visit to China as to a theatre. But when they get there, the theatre I mean, and find they can get bars and buns and a song or two, then there's a good chance they'll come back.

"I like the idea of a regular, loyal audience and hope that maybe we'll find one at the Haymarket; when I was at the RSC in *Henry V*, and people used to come backstage to say they'd seen the play eighteen times, I thought they meant Burton's, Neville's, Howard's and so on, but what they meant was they'd seen our production eighteen times. It was amazing, but if you can find those sorts of groupies then anything is possible."

Now at the start of his fifties, and well into a second marriage which means that he has sons of 20 (Daniel, already in the Royal Exchange company) and two months, Peacock is aware that he is coming into a good time: "Occasionally I've been offered my own television situation-comedy series but I've been careful to avoid those because they make you into a one-character actor and then they're very hard to break out of; the range I've had lately of work, from Talbot and Jack Cade in the new BBC *Henry VI* cycle to ITV's *Born and Bred*, has meant that I can keep jumping about, and that's what matters most."

Concerts

Monochrome effect

LSO/Marriner

Festival Hall

Britten's *Men of Goodwill* dates from 1947, when he composed it for a BBC radio programme, yet Monday's performance by the London Symphony Orchestra under Neville Marriner was the first to be given in a concert hall, and indeed the first since that broadcast. It takes the form of variations on "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen", and the score's invention is so consistent that there is danger of it being taken for granted.

Yet, despite the impressive variety of figuration and the diversity of Britten's orchestral writing, the effect is monochrome, in emotional as much as in musical terms. Having admired the composer's skill, there was nothing left to think about. The performance was clear and efficient, with good work from all departments of a large ensemble.

In disappointing contrast, the opening *tutti* of Chopin's Concerto No 2 was thoughtless, but such playing was, as it were, rebuked by the authority of Bella Davidovich's entry. However, subtle shadings were soon apparent in her phrases, as was a rubato which sought out their true meaning. Much of the piano figuration in the development section can sound like technical exercises; none of it did here.

In thematic statements, not only did the melodies sing, as Chopin's usually do, but so also, the notes melting into one another, did the rapid ornamentation. This applied especially to the slow movement, of course, and here Miss Davidovich's playing conveyed a rare vernal freshness. It was if each note was discovered in the actual moment of its performance. The mirror image of this was naturally the darkness of the central dramatic outburst, performed, by the soloist at least, with authentic intensity.

Though it was apt that Chopin's finale should sound spontaneous, this was paid for with a lessening of finesse. Miss Davidovich's playing was still masterful in demeanour, yet the result was here less exalted.

The LSO, and Mr Marriner, gave better accounts of themselves in the *Symphonie Fantastique*. In particular, a balance was held between broad sweep of Berlioz's five canvasses and due attention to picturesque detail. Picturesque is perhaps not quite the word for the incidents suggested by the last two movements, but "Un Bal" and "Scene aux Champs" were uncommonly evocative.

Max Harrison

RPO/Temirkanov

Festival Hall

The degree of passionate commitment was unusually high at the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's concert on Sunday night, as much from the orchestra themselves as from their principal guest conductor, Yuri Temirkanov, and the violinist Shlomo Mintz. The soloist chose the Dvorak concerto, which made a welcome alternative to others more familiar in the romantic repertory, and on this occasion it sounded no less a masterwork than any of those.

Bracing himself on the platform, legs apart as if on a ship's deck, the violinist launched himself fervently into the sturdy, often folk-like character of the concerto, with its leaping lines and eloquence of feeling, a character distilled from the slavonic dances and rhapsodies which were then dominating the composer's musical thinking. His insistance on linking the opening movement to the following Adagio was never more convincingly justified than by the richness of tone and technique with which the soloist articulated both movements as well as the spirited finale.

The conductor has shown his affinity with Rachmaninov on previous occasions, and the forbidding number of notes that constitute the second symphony were marshalled at the service of the musical intentions, even if, to others less committed than Mr Temirkanov, the work as a whole constantly seems to promise more than it redeems. He directed its course as if concerned to escape those associations by which each movement sounds as if it might be followed by credits rolling on a screen.

The temptation for the conductor in such music to express what he believes an audience should be feeling, not avoided by famous names of past and present, was here subordinated to the persuasive splendour of the orchestral playing, which made the most of the music with confident spirit and emphatic character. The detail of instrumental colour was also to be enjoyed in a tantalizingly brief except from Rimsky-Korsakov's opera *The Invisible City of Kitezh*.

Noël Goodwin

Junko Makayama

Queen Elizabeth Hall

There is a certain pleasure to be had in listening to a young pianist whose interpretations of the standard repertoire are as well thought through as the programme, and whose technique is fluent and confident enough to enable the music to speak directly, unfiltered through a mesh of nervous and physical tensions.

For the first 15 minutes or so of her recital Miss Makayama provided just this sort of pleasure. Her Schubert G flat Impromptu and the opening of the B flat Sonata, D 960, moved with refreshingly unencumbered strength, the melodic and harmonic shaping of their long lines never over-urged. But the pleasure quickly palls when, within the long span of this opening movement, little delight is taken in the appearance, development or variation of each new melodic idea, one hurtling by after the other, with no pause for breath, reflection or recall, and with little dynamic variation either side of a mezzoforte.

If in the Schubert the display of Miss Makayama's technical accomplishments seemed to dispense with the need to express and infect her audience with any real affection for the music, her Chopin Impromptu and Sonata revealed those skills in even starker isolation. Particularly in the B minor Sonata that temptation to undernourish each small unfurling figure, each progressive harmonic inflexion, the quicker to achieve a passage of more obvious pianistic virtuosity, was more serious evidence of a failure to penetrate and realize the musical structure and emotional evolution of the work as a whole.

With only an arbitrary and limping rubato propelling the first movement's *sostenuto* and the Largo's rocking cantabile, by the Presto finale Miss Makayama was not alone in feeling eager to reach the end of a work whose disturbingly unnurtured performance could only try the patience and dull the sensibility.

Hilary Finch

Television

Charm of a good soap opera

There were plenty of problems in The Silly Season (Play for Today, BBC1), Stephen Mulrine's sad comedy from Glasgow which seemed to have been in the can long enough to include references to Sir Keith Joseph in an unfamiliar post and to present as its plausible central idea the spectacle of students doing holiday work at a bottling plant.

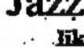
There were Isabel's problems, for a start. Isabel (Elaine Collins) wore pink pantomime pantyhose and a tiny black skirt that might have been made out of toffee paper: she was neglected by her father and made pregnant by Jimmy, for whom she did not care. If you thought Isabel a coarse slut (and she was) she was gentleness itself compared to fecund sister Eileen (Janette Foggo), a young Maenad whose soft lips twisted and green eyes blazed with fierce joy as one moral imperative after another consumed her. Completing the trio of witches waiting for the return of their father and husband Malcolm (Derek Anders) was a sour and wingeing *tricoteuse* — his wife Ellen (Mary Riggans).

Malcolm had other problems, too: he had lost office in his union for refusing to endorse a strike, and now he was hopelessly in love with Lesley (Frances Low), the art student with the delicious nose and ginger curls at the bottling plant. Lesley's problems were modest: an enlightened and civilized upbringing, and cohabitation with Alistair (Iain Louchlan), an engaging painter and hopelessly childlike revolutionary whose curls were nearly as pretty as hers, but blond.

We are free agents, he told her generously during a rare row, to which she replied "But it's *my* flat", and chucked him out. He returned next day, of course, and they snuggled up at the end like a couple of kids, leaving Malcolm to face the bleak wrath of Ellen, and Isabel to await the birth of her unwanted child, like Yorkshire mill-girls in Edwardian novels, in Manchester.

It looks terrible on paper, I know, but I have to say I enjoyed it. The permutations — there was more, but enough of exposition — were explored with the speed, variety and charm of good soap opera, the piece was well acted and the occasional political sharpness suggested another play trying to get through. "They pass for an elite in here", explained Malcolm of the factory girls who sniggered at Lesley, "and you're a real threat. They earn half of what the packers get, and that makes them middle class." It was funny, too, but to know precisely *how* funny would have required selective subtitles for Southerners, and perhaps even for Kelvinside.

Michael Ratcliffe



Jazz

Woody Shaw

Ronnie Scott's

Woody Shaw served his apprenticeship as a young trumpeter with such leaders as Art Blakey, Eric Dolphy, Jackie McLean and McCoy Tyner, but his brief tenure with Horace Silver's group in the middle 1960s seems to have planted the hardiest seeds in his own conception. Shaw's quintet, which began a two-weeks residency on Frith Street on Monday, favours several Silverish shades: strong, simple structures usually based on coiled piano figures, bright textures which stop just short of harshness, and Latin-inflected rhythms.

The leader's own playing has long threatened to qualify him for stardom, but somehow he has never escaped the shadow of Freddy Hubbard, and perhaps he is now consigned to a place in the second division. For all his unquenchable facility and vivacious attack, one improvisation sounds very much like another — a standard criticism of post-bop soloists, in this case fully justified. After listening recently to trumpeters as stylistically diverse as Ruby Braff and Wynton Marsalis; it is hard to get worked up over Shaw's predictable recourse to double-time runs in practically every chorus.

He shares the front line with a trombonist, Steve Turre, whose approaches range from the diffident to the blaring and who makes an agile partner in the head arrangements of "Star Eyes" and Shaw's own rapid "Ginseng People". The piano work of Mulgrew Miller provided adequate support but undistinguished solos, and Tony Reis seemed a most promising young drummer, delivering a lithe beat in the manner of a more emphatic Billy Higgins and making something musically interesting of his four-bar breaks.

The group's star is unquestionably its bassist, Stafford James, an unsung performer who combines walking lines of quiet but massive swing with a flexibility which stops short of gymnastics. His tone throughout the registers is marvellously consistent; he has a way, too, of starting a chorus with a few halved-time bars before slipping into a regular 4/4, providing an illusion of acceleration which gives the soloist a flying start.

Richard Williams

Theatre

Fair game, and not so fair

Operation Bad Apple

Royal Court

G. F. Newman has found a snappy title to link this play with the Operation Countryman inquiry, but, in view of the careful programme disclaimers of any resemblance between his cast of villainous cops and any past or present officers of the Metropolitan Police, he might have done better to call it *Operation Hot Potato*.

The author's own view of the subject is crisply expressed in the opening spectacle of an evidently incorruptible Assistant Commissioner explaining the terms of their inquiry to the visiting Wiltshire constabulary, before retiring to his Esher residence to receive a £3,000 robbery kickback from a cold-eyed underling.

The underling is one Detective Chief Inspector Sneed, a rising young officer, loaded with commendations, and later to make his mark as the Wiltshire team's long-awaited supergrass. Until Sneed falls into their clutches, they haul in nothing but a few small fry while the big fish swim round watching them waste their time.

When Sneed begins talking and disclosing his jealously preserved records, it appears that there will shortly be *no* CID left; at which point, the Home Office allows the Met to take over the inquiry and suppress the evidence. The piece ends with Sneed repeating the opening routine and solemnly informing his listeners that there may be one or two bad apples in the barrel and it is their sacred duty to root them out.

Whatever the play's documentary basis, its main purpose is to supply a good night out for spectators who enjoy watching the police getting it in the neck. As I do not care for blood sports I found it an uncomfortable experience. The police are fair game for critical documentary treatment or wild farce, like Orton's *Loot*. But a piece like this that hovers on the edge of credibility, suggesting that harassment of blacks is a deliberate policy to provoke a call for law and order, that Serious Crime Squads take so much in Securicor raids that the robbers have hardly two pennies to rub together, while at the same time protesting that it is all fiction with no reference to any policeman you might actually meet, strikes me as something less than courageous.

The black and white terms of the inquiry also compel Mr Newman to show excessive kindness to the rural constabulary. Are there no bent coppers out there too, you wonder, as their outraged eyebrows shoot up at the evil metropolitan practices, and their soft country voices take on the fanatical accent of the witch hunt. I had sympathy with the exasperated Met suspect who told them to get back to Ambridge.

Coming from the author of the *Bastard* trilogy and the *Law and Order* series, the dialogue has the ring of total authenticity, combining formal police procedure with criminal shorthand and brutal wit: finding corruption in the Met, Sneed tells his interrogators, "is like drilling for water in Ireland". If you have a taste for exposure scenes, Mr Newman has them in abundance, working up the hierarchy from the foul-mouthed Detective Sergeant level to the shifty-eyed panic of the top brass.

But the most interesting feature of the play is the spectacle of policemen undergoing the treatment they reserve for others: some reacting with ferocious incomprehension when finding themselves on the receiving end; others, like Patrick Malahide's nerve-hardened Sneed, facing his opposite numbers as if they were chess opponents. "It's like sitting here listening to myself", he says contemptuously, observing his adversary's provincial technique.

Max Stafford-Clarke's production conjures up a succession of locations with the aid of a few chairs and a golf ball; the reality of the characters diminishes as they ascend the social scale, but Roger Booth and Toby Salaman give the Met two adversaries to be reckoned with.

Irving Wardle

John Haynes



Toby Salaman (standing), Patrick Malahide: adversaries to be reckoned with

For the Médecin family, running Nice is a way of life: the present mayor, Jacques, is angrily denying charges of corruption in his city...

Dirty tricks, says le patron, and takes the gloves off

by Jonathan Fenby



The Mayor of Nice, Jacques Médecin, and his American wife: 'Why is my city always singled out?'

Nice

It is wine and circus time in Nice this month. The annual carnival is in full swing, with weekly "battles" between floral floats and nightly dances under huge strip cartoon characters in the central Place Masséna. Everybody seems to be having a good time. Sometimes police join in the dancing, trailing silver heartshaped ballons as they sway across the cobblestones.

This Mediterranean gaiety is an essential part of the image that Nice has built up since it began to develop as a tourist centre at the end of the last century. But behind the image there is the reality of bitter political in-fighting, economic pressure, shut-down casinos, tension with the central government in Paris and, now, *l'affaire Graham Greene*.

The novelist's allegations of corruption by the city's criminals of police officers, magistrates and lawyers, first made in a letter to *The Times*, on January 25, come at a tricky time for the well-entrenched establishment which has run the city for decades. Tourism is declining. Both of Nice's big casinos are closed because of tax debts. Luxury hotels along the Promenade des Anglais report falling business.

Though best known for tourism, Nice is also an important industrial centre, with 350,000 inhabitants, and has been banking on becoming France's California through a combination of holiday appeal and high technology companies. But the soggy state of the French economy has slowed things down. The city's economically important construction industry is in a rocky state and the property market has plunged since the socialist electoral triumph last summer.

Nice, like many other previous conservative strongholds was not immune from the left-wing tide. Two of the city's three members of the National Assembly are now socialists, and the right-wing city council have no doubt that Nice's affairs come under particular, and critical, scrutiny from the national administration in Paris.

After a long period of absence from the city council, left-wingers won a third of the seats in 1978 and are doing everything they can to turn that into a majority at next year's municipal elections.

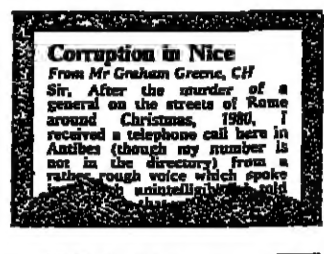
For them, Graham Greene's allegations came as a godsend. The socialist weekly, *Nouvel Hebdo de Nice*, put the writer on its cover and devoted four pages to the affair as an example of the way the city needs a radical change of direction. That in turn, was proof enough for members of the ruling group in Nice that the whole thing had been got up by their political enemies with one particular target in mind; the mayor who has run Nice for 15 years.

"The relationship between Nice and its mayor is one of lover and mistress", the editor of the local newspaper commented last week "Jacques Médecin is, quite simply, *le patron*".

That is not something the 53-year-old M Médecin would quarrel with. Graham Greene's allegations do not concern him personally, he insists, and, indeed, Greene has made a point of never naming him. But M Médecin still feels he has to climb into the ring to fight for the good name of his city.

What he is dealing with, he is convinced, is a dirty tricks campaign by his opponents. Nice, he says, has been unfairly singled out for attention. There is certainly crime in the city, but what about the recent killing of a Corsican boss of gambling clubs in Paris, and what about gang killings in Marseilles?

"If somebody dies crashing a car into a tree here, the papers write 'she was killed in a car crash in a city where M Médecin is mayor'," he told me. "Its always 'in the city of Jaques Médecin'.... In Marseilles a judge was killed recently. Nobody said *that* was the fault of the mayor, who happens to be M Gaston Defferre, the Minister of the Interior".



Corruption in Nice
From Mr Graham Greene, CH
Sir, After the murder of a general on the streets of Rome around Christmas, 1980, I received a telephone call here in Antibes (though my number is not in the directory) from a rather rough voice which spoke ... unintelligib...



Graham Greene and his controversial letter to The Times on January 25

But Nice's recent history is certainly studded with events calculated to titillate the suspicious-minded: the escape through a court window of the mastermind of a huge bank robbery who had earlier accompanied M Médecin as a photographer in a group trip to Japan; the drug trafficker who remained unscathed for years before finally being arrested; gang killings that left 30 dead in the 1970s; and, above all, the casino war on the Promenade des Anglais.

M Médecin insists that he was in no way involved in the fight between the venerable Palais de la Méditerranée casino and its ultra-modern rival, the Ruhl. The struggle was, he told me, "only a commercial war, like one between two supermarkets that are too close to one another".

There can have been few supermarket fights, however, that have led to the daughter of the owner of one disappearing mysteriously after switching her vital vote at a board meeting, as happened to the daughter of the woman who ran the Palais de la Méditerranée. Nor do many supermarket bosses flee to Switzerland to escape charges of fiscal irregularities, as did the Ruhl's boss, Jean Dominique Fratoni, who still, however, keeps in regular touch with his boyhood soccer team mate, the Mayor.

Nice's current notoriety, M Médecin told me, had a simple cause: "The left hates me because I am one of the most combative right-wing politicians in the country. They hate my guts and I hate their guts. They want to destroy me as an example of what happens when you stand up to them. They cannot compete with my administration here so they have decided to fight by tricky ways, and the tricky way is to try to give me the image of dishonesty.

"Those so-called socialists tell the people in Nice that Jacques Médecin has not done a thing for the poor and that they will do better. But they know I have done a lot for the poor, for all people who need help.

M Médecin is very much a man of the Midi. He has written a good-selling book on the local cuisine and, engagingly, lists collecting model trains as one of his hobbies, together with rose growing, swimming and fishing. His second wife, an American heiress from the Max Factor cosmetics family many years his junior, appears beside him on municipal posters wishing the citizens of Nice a happy new year

For anybody bearing any other name to be mayor of Nice would be as unthinkable as communist participation in the French government would have been a few years ago. Apart from a two-year break in the 1940s, Jacques Médecin's father was mayor from 1926 until 1965; Jacques took over the following year after working as a journalist.

For M Médecin's opponents, the long family tenure of power reflects Nice's democratic backwardness and accounts for the recurrent suspicions about the way the city is run. "The kind of government that exists in Nice is the classic government of the south, like British rotten boroughs of the past", says M Max Gallo, one of the socialist deputies elected last June and author of a novel of crime and corruption clearly based on the city.

"The permanence of the same family, not to speak of the same clans, does not encourage clear, transparent public life and gives rise to suspicions and gossip, either with a real basis or as the product of the imagination."

Nice, M Gallo notes, has been French only since 1860. It was then a small Mediterranean town, run by a closed circle of men, and its growth into France's fifth biggest city this century has not shaken its nineteenth century municipal structure.

However much local enthusiasts may talk of an injection of high technology industries, says M Gallo, Nice has still not become integrated with the rest of the country. He has his own clear ideas about changing that situation if he manages to unseat M Médecin in next year's mayoral election.

Whatever happens, the economic and political pressures of the next few years are bound to put the old system that has run Nice for so long under pressure. The carnival will go on, but Graham Greene's private war may play its little part in deciding whether it dances to the familiar Médecin tune or to a more left-wing air.

Henry Fairlie

Reagan to the rescue of Fort Budget

Washington

President Reagan's 71st birthday last Saturday was given scant attention by the press here, a reflection perhaps of its present and even nagging disenchantment with him. But the Pesident made up for its lack of notice by choosing his birthday to release his 1983 budget proposals, which have been greeted by many Republicans across the country with a low whistle of incredulity and even a shudder.

The budget message was sent officially to Congress at noon on Monday, the President having earlier met the congressional leadership. He then gave a luncheon for the All-Star ice hockey players and then took off for the Midwest to go on the hustings for the first time in a year in which the mid-term elections will be crucial.

The juxtaposition of a budget message which will be bitterly contested in Washington with his first electioneering of 1982 tells us a lot about what we may expect of Mr Reagan during the coming year. His advisers say the budget proposals, given their probable consequences, leave him with no choice but to go out into the country and campaign for the proposals and his party.

In describing how he spends his days as President, therefore, one must remember that his role is about to change radically. With his budget — an act of political courage or obstinate folly, only time will tell — he has endangered many Republicans who most stand for re-election. He must now do the campaigning for them. The President has forced himself, at the beginning of only his second year in office, to become a candidate again.

Most presidents try to avoid taking too active a part in the mid-term elections. Why risk their own reputations and popularity trying to save candidates who may in the end be defeated? But Mr Reagan has no option. He needs the Republican majority in the Senate and the Republican strength in the House. He must lead the fight for them.

Even the most privileged White House correspondents of the great American newspapers say, as one of them wrote not long ago, that it "often remains mysterious" how closely Mr Reagan follows daily developments, how deeply he is engaged in the process of governing, and how he arrives at his decisions. But even what has been known so far is not now a reliable guide.

Even as a candidate in 1980, when he had none of the duties of office, he had to be shielded — not just to save his energy but also to reduce the chances of him muffing his lines. The responsibilities of the presidency have added a third concern. He is quite capable of talking happily along, as someone put it the other day, "some times altering foreign policy with a chance remark", which his staff then has to try to retrieve.

When he legitimately boasted of his victory on the sale of Awacs aircraft to Saudi Arabia, for example, he gratuitously commended the Saudis' Middle East peace proposals. Not only Israel but his own State Department was incredulous. If he must now carry his budget fight to the country, whether by televised news confereces or by going on public platforms again, much time will have to be spent guarding against such infelicitious improvisations.

Even before the new budget proposals were released, with his popularity slipping in the polls, his advisers decided he should give more news conferences. This has called for still more regular and more intensive briefing by his staff.

It has been said that presidential news conferences have become exercises in damage control as the press grows more critical. But there can never have been a White House staff — there certainly has not been in the four previous presidencies I have observed — which is so fearful of what their President will say. This determines much of the character of his days

More than any other previous administration, Mr Reagan's is committed to marketing techniques, from the elaborate use of survey research by a team of pollsters to the final marketing of the finished product by a team of media consultants. A White House day is more and more dominated by a continuous process of educating the President for the public performances arranged by his staff.

How long the President spends at his desk or elsewhere absorbed in public concerns is now a more closely guarded secret than before. What is increasingly clear is that it is less a matter of how much time he is willing to spend at his desk — this is probably more than at the beginning — than of the stages in decision-making at which the White House structure requires or even permits his intervention.

Every description of the process given by the triumvirate of his top advisers is woolly. Even when the President personally makes a serious error (as in supporting tax-exempt status for racially segregated schools), when he personally resists the weight of advice (as in pursuing his policy of big tax cuts), both the moment of the presidential decision and the manner in which it was reached are hard to discover.

The country simply does not know what he does, which has so far clearly been to his advantage. But if one adds up the decisions in which he is known to have had a hand at a stage that mattered, the irresistible impression is of a President whose interventions are intermittent and arbitrary, and are made on a range of ill-assorted issues of varying seriousness and triviality.

Above all, there is no more evidence now than at the beginning that he gives any sustained attention to the graver and more far-reaching questions of foreign policy. This situation can only deteriorate because of the character of his budget message. For yet another year his, Congress's and the country's attention will be concentrated on domestic policy and the protracted battles that it will cause.

A president who has made it inevitable that he must lead the fight for the budget, and lead his party in the elections which will be focused on it, is not a president who will have much time in any day to consider the Nato alliance.

One of his triumvirate, James A. Baker III, said the other day: "We're not unhappy with the way the President's time has been scheduled. One of the things we do in our morning meetings is talk about how we think the President's time is being allocated and spent in a macro sense."

If ever I find myself allocating my time in a macro sense I will decide reluctantly but firmly that it is time to go.

Artist with a magic pencil

Ben Nicholson, for many enthusiasts the greatest of all contemporary British artists, lived for his work. When he died on Saturday at his Hampstead home, he had only three weeks earlier completed the arrangements for an exhibition of his recent paintings at the Waddington Galleries in Cork Street, W1, next month.

"I thought he was working extremely well", said Sir Norman Reid, director of the Tate Gallery until he was succeeded by Nicholson's son-in-law, Alan Bowness, two years ago. "Latterly he had expressed a great admiration for Miro, perhaps because Miro was about his own age and, apart from Henry Moore, almost the only surviving artist of that generation. But I think there was also a real appreciation of Miro's playful attitude to art, and his own work had taken on a more relaxed quality, without being of course in any sense sloppy".

Nicholson was in some ways a very solitary and private person (despite being thrice-married), but allowed Reid to visit him regularly in Pilgrim's Lane — up the road from Michael Foot — and even urged him to bring along some of his own paintings. "He was very encouraging without being at all lenient", Reid recalled.

In the studio Reid would see the jugs and vases which he loved to draw and paint. "Friends tended to bring him things when they found something particularly delicious. They stood around and worked their way into his visual memory. And when he picked up a pencil, something magical happened, as you know".

The poet Geoffrey Grigson, who knew Nicholson most of his life, recalled taking him to Bath four years ago. After being enormously impressed by the Royal Crescent, Nicholson drifted into an antique shop, emerging with a large glass goblet. When they returned *chez* Grigson, he asked whether he could take over the kitchen, and spent the rest of the day closeted there drawing the goblet.

"He was an extraordinarily gay character", Grigson said fondly, "and a monstrous maker of puns."

While married to his third wife, Dr Felicitas Vogler a German journalist and photographer, Nicholson lived from 1958 to 1972 on the Swiss side of the Italian border near Ascona, in a modern house overlooking Lake Garda. Friends like Grigson and Reid who visited him agree that he felt unduly isolated and cut off from his friends. When he returned to England, he stayed for a time in part of an old mill near Cambridge belonging to the architect Leslie Martin, his friend from the 1930 s when art and design marched hand in hand.

"The great point about his work was its extreme subtlety, which was part of his character", Sir Leslie (as he became) recalled yesterday. "He never wanted to do anything else but paint". Nicholson liked Martin's architectural work, not least when it reminded him of something he himself had done; and Martin felt reinforced by the parallel element in the work of an artist he so greatly admired. Together, and with Naum Gabo, they edited *Circle*, a book celebrating the "constructive" aspects, as they saw them, of architecture, painting and sculpture.

Despite his gaiety, his puns, his love of tennis, ping-pong (at both of which he exelled) and cricket, of cats, picnics and Stevie Smith's poems, he was not an easy man.

Few artists are heroes to their dealers (and vice versa), but Leslie Waddington retained an affectionate admiration for Nicholson's sometimes maddening perfectionism. "Ben was totally demanding. His concept of catalogues set a standard for other dealers and influenced other catalogues", he said.

It was a pity — though understandable, given his dedication to his work and his privacy — that Nicholson should virtually never have given interviews, thus denying posterity his views and his wit. One of the few who broke the barriers was his third wife: the story was that she went to interview him at his St Ives home andnever re-emerged. For several of his six children he became a remote figure. To the end it was his work which came first.

Roger Berthoud



Humphrey Spender's study of Ben Nicholson in the National Portrait Gallery

THE TIMES DIARY



I would describe Sally Haywill as bouncy only I am too intimidated. As a special treat for Valentine's Day this ardent feminist who believes in fighting sexism — with both fists and any other weapons that come conveniently to hand — is publishing a book called Squashed Flies.

It is described as a collection of "witty, crushing and devastating replies to male abuse." Sample: "Why don't you pick on someone your own sex?" or (in a cinema, finding a hand wandering over one's leg, shouting loudly), "Does anyone know whose hand this is?"

It is also a self-defence manual with alarming suggestions which, Sally says, are "just a quick pointer to some areas of the body which are especially useful". On the man, I notice, "little fingers break easily if bent back", "a hard jab with knuckles to the throat can incapacitate" and "a quick jab with fingers to the eyes can blind."

Having read the book — it costs 99p — I am beginning to realize what it's like to feel vulnerable.

Fox recalled with an illustrious meet

Chatham House is gathering a wealth of international experience to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the British foreign secretaryship next month.

[illegible] Michael Howard, Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, and Lord Carrington will be among speakers in a series of lectures organized by the Royal Institute of International Affairs with the Foreign Office. The celebrations commemorate the appointment of Charles James Fox as Foreign Secretary on March 27, 1782. Before that, responsibility for Britain's foreign policy was divided between two secretaries of state. One looked after southern Europe and the colonies, the other the north.

The lectures, at Chatham House on Thursdays in March, will be chaired by Lord Harlech, James Callaghan, Lord Greenhill and Lord Home. Invitations have gone to all former foreign secretaries, including Harold Macmillan, Lord Butler, Lord (Michael) Stewart and David Owen.

Vodka at six

Egon Ronay, in his *1982 Bulmer Pub Guide*, launched yesterday, properly celebrates the rise of the family pub. But he does not mention the little-known fact that, despite our allegedly tight licensing laws, it is perfectly legal to buy your six-year-old a vodka so long as the child is in the pub garden.

The age limit for consumption of alcohol on licensed premises outside the bar is only five.

Wrong-footed

John Timpson of Radio 4's early morning *Today* programme is a very good presenter, but I would not fancy waltzing with him. Commenting on the rail strikes yesterday, he remarked that they had changed their tempo from quickstep — "on, on, off, off, on" — to waltz — on, off, on, off".

He then went farther, and said they might next be waltzing "on, on, on, off, off, off". As we graduates of Arthur Murray realize a real railway waltz would go "on, off, off, on off off", but I hope none of this gives the railmen any more silly ideas.

Robert Maxwell's British Printing Corporation (BPC) changes its name from March 1 to British Printing and Communication Corporation (BPCC) — and not as some people thought to Maxwell House.

Tower power

The Pilgrims, who promote Anglo-American understanding, have Senator John Tower, chairman of the United States Senate's Armed Services Committee, coming to lunch at the Savoy on February 23. Tower, a tough Republican who won Lyndon Johnson's seat two decades ago, is a powerful figure, in some senses outranking the well-publicized Secretary of State, Alexander Haig. On the other hand Haig was a general. Tower, the only enlisted reservist in Congress, is still officially a chief petty officer.

Lift-off?

While Times Newspapers needs 600 employees to take off for the papers' future to be assured, the followers of the Maharishi Mahesh Yoga believe that if just another 500 inhabitants of Skelmersdale start levitating, the whole country will be rid of crime, strikes and every other nastiness. They claim statistical evidence showing that if only the square root of 1 per cent of the United Kingdom's population (about 750 people) practise "the group dynamics of consciousness" the nation's troubles are over.

Skelmersdale, a new town near Liverpool, already has a group of 250 practising levitation, more than anywhere else in the country. Now the Marharishi's followers are looking for a building near the Houses of Parliament from which they hope to beam their health-giving and age-reversing waves of consciousness to our legislators.

Don't play it again

Leonard Barkey, deputy managing director of Saatchi and Saatchi, the advertising agency which so far at least retains its Conservative Party account, admits to embarrassment at the dole-queue posters his firm produced for the last general election.

With unemployment now double the level it was when James Callaghan left office, Barkey said that for the next election: "We might suggest the Conservatives play down unemployment." Political parties, he added, were different from the usual run of clients in that they do not ask for advice on the product. As an agency, "You just shut up and do the ads."

Weighty reading

Many things are sold by weight—it is illegal to sell brussel sprouts any other way—so why not books? Michael Reynolds, deputy chairman of the Apple and Pear Marketing Board and founder of the Susan Reynolds Books chain, today starts selling books at 30p a pound at his Regent Street shop.

Reynolds believes that people are drawn to heavy, low-priced books irrespective of content. "One of our fastest-moving books was a big one called *Detailed Diagrams of the Brains of a Baboon* at 50p. People were snapping it up as a coffee table conversation piece because it looked impressive—and cost so little".

What ails gladioli from Malta? Something must, for of all the world's gladdies, they are banned from Britain. The returning European traveller may bring unrestricted numbers of flower seeds, but only five plants or parts of plants, and no chrysanthemums, fruit trees, or potatoes. One may bring in only "a small bunch of cut flowers", but there is a complete ban on forest trees



Rest easy

The safety of London now rests in the hands of the Wackenhut Corporation. The firm, little known in Britain, has been put in charge of security at the new Thames barrage.

George Wackenhut, the head of the company, flew from the United States to inspect the installation yesterday. He confirmed gravely that "considerable damage could be wrought" if anything happened to the barrage, and that the construction was regarded as "a serious sabotage risk". It may help Londoners sleep more soundly in their beds to know that Wackenhut already guards the Alaska oil pipeline, the nuclear test site outside Las Vegas and the Cape Canaveral space centre from which the shuttle is launched.

Goodbye sailor

The choice of Colin Smith of Edinburgh as seafarer judged to have made the best use of his leisure time in 1981 casts new light on the perils facing seamen. He spent most of the year ashore and looking for work. He wrote to more than 130 companies, many of them twice. When he did finally get a job with a foreign vessel the unhygienic conditions on board quickly made him ill, and he landed in a Beirut hospital for seven weeks. He is now unemployed again.

Winning waltz

It is not, surprisingly, unknown for newspaper writers to win literary prizes, but it must almost be unheard-of for newspaper executives. Yet tomorrow George Clare, head of the Springer newspapers' London operations, will collect the W. H. Smith award for *Last Waltz in Vienna*, a history of his Austrian Jewish family.

Clare says he is overwhelmed to be taking his place in a list of winners that includes Anthony Powell, Laurie Lee, Patrick White and John Fowles. "I cannot get over it that an English prize should go to someone born and raised in Europe", he said yesterday.

PHS

THE TIMES
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A MATTER OF ORIGINS

Considering that the idea has been the stuff of baleful science fiction for many years, the first steps to intervene extraneously in the process of human fertilization have been received with reasonable calm. The adulterous overtones of artificial insemination by donor (AID) have not generally been fussed over, and the remarkable achievement of conceiving babies in glass dishes has been fussed over mainly for its sentimental significance. Several thousand couples have been enabled to have children through AID, and in vitro fertilization may help as many as a hundred this year.

Medical knowledge in this area is growing very fast. Before long doctors will have it in their power to manipulate the processes of conception in ways that raise far more troubling ethical questions than present practices. Some doctors, including the chairman of the British Medical Association's central ethical committee, which meets to discuss the subject today, have called for a complete halt to work in this field until society has had time to take stock.

Existing procedures, which have been used with animals for some years, do not carry medical risks of pose immediate ethical problems of an order that would warrant a ban. That would be a bitter blow to many couples who hope to benefit, and might lose their chance for ever if there was delay.

Nevertheless the general implications have not been fully considered either by doctors or by society at large. The BMA's comments will no doubt be helpful, as will the guidelines now being prepared by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, but this is not a matter to be left wholly to the doctors. There is now a strong case for a widely-based government inquiry, including a variety of lay voices as well as medical ones, into the whole question. Whether or not any line of research should be halted in the meantime is a matter that the inquiry itself should be invited to address itself, to, and make recommendations as necessary in an interim report.

In themselves, AID and in vitro fertilization are less unfamiliar in their implications than their scientific magic might suggest. The latter has as yet only been accomplished in Britain with the husband's sperm, but it could be done with donor sperm. A child conceived in this way, or by AID would technically be illegitimate, but in practice it is most unlikely that this would put it at any legal disadvantage. In animals, a fertilized ovum has already been implanted successfully in a different female, and the same technique may soon be applicable to human couples where a woman cannot herself produce ova capable of fertilization. In effect, this is a kind of pre-natal adoption, and it raises similar issues.

Adoption cannot take place without formal social reports and sanction by a court, but in AID it is left to the doctor's professional judgment to assess whether the aspirant parents are suitable. Parallel safeguards may not be necessary — adoption tends to be a far more complex matter psychologically. But adoptive children and AID children alike may in some cases feel a strong desire when they grow up to find out their real genetic origin, and to suffer greatly if they are prevented from doing so. Since 1975 the law has given the former the right to know, though it has not made it easy, and a minority take advantage of this. It seems right that AID children should be able to do the same.

This implies that the identity of donors should be recorded, though on a confidential basis. There is no requirement for this at the moment. A record would also help to overcome fears of accidental incest, similar to those which sometimes exist with adoptions. The risk of serious genetic ill-effects from such an event would in practice be remote, but precautions would nevertheless make reassurance available both to the individual and the public. Whether statutory requirements are necessary, or a code of practice for doctors, the inquiry may consider.

Further ahead, the ethical problems become stranger and graver. Freezing of genetic material and cloning (or division of fertilized eggs into an unlimited number of genetically identical individuals) are already part of existing procedures, but with further development they would make highly bizarre eugenic tinkering feasible. It is not desirable to ban useful practices outright merely because they could be used in offensive or dangerous ways, but there may be a case for regulation.

A fertilized egg is potentially a person. It ought not to be regarded as dispensable matter on the same basis as sperm or an egg that has not been fertilized. There is no clear consensus in society about the rights that such an entity possesses, or at what stage it acquires them, as may be seen from disagreements about abortion. Embryos fertilized in the laboratory would be of enormous value as material for scientific research. In the case of abortion, it is widely accepted that the interests of a mother can override her foetus's claim to life. Research of benefit not to one individual but to the whole community might arguably be said to have at least an equal claim. But the idea is deeply repugnant to many. It is time for a calm and thorough debate over which of the many strange possibilities now opening up are acceptable, which need further controls, and which are unacceptable.

CHEMICAL ARSENALS

Chemical warfare is rightly held in abhorence. President Reagan's request to Congress for funds to reactivate a chemical weapons programme will deepen misgivings where they are already felt in Western Europe about the American rearmament drive. Chemical weapons have not been manufactured in the United States since 1969, nor are they likely to be in the immediate future. On the other hand, a nerve gas plant is already under construction in Arkansas, and what is "developed" could without much difficulty be "produced" and subsequently deployed. Since — as with tactical nuclear weapons — the envisaged battleground is Western Europe, any such suggestion could lead to a further rise in European neutralist sentiment, together with the anti-Americanism on which it feeds.

The policy can be justified if — as Mr Reagan has suggested — it is intended to make the use of chemical weapons less rather than more likely, and if possible to abolish them altogether. The programme outlined by President Reagan is partly defensive, in that it calls for better protective clothing against possible Warsaw Pact attacks.The Reagan programme is also intended to replace existing stockpiles, which are deteriorating and will shortly become more dangerous to their possessors than to potential aggressors. But the President clearly wants to go further, as his proposal for the development of a new binary nerve gas indicates. His intention is to enlarge the American chemical warfare capability to the point where it forces the Russians to negotiate reductions in their own substantial chemical arsenals.

There are no reliable estimates of the Soviet capability, and American charges that the Russians have used poisonous gases either directly (in Afghanistan) or through surrogates (in South East Asia) have yet to be proved. But the Soviet Union has extensive stockpiles of chemical weapons, and Soviet troops are systematically trained in their use. Nerve gas is a peculiarly vile weapon, resulting in death through paralysis, and its effects could scarcely be confined to the battlefield. Much the same might be said of nuclear weapons, tactical or otherwise, and death from nuclear blast and radiation and death from nerve gas poisoning are horrific in about equal measure. But whereas a balance of sorts exists in the nuclear field, there is no deterrent at present to the Soviet use of chemical weapons beyond the use of nuclear weapons themselves, which in the Nato doctrine of "flexible response" is concieved of as a last resort.

To try and match the Russians gas for gas would be to risk a new and deadly arms race, and would in any case presuppose detailed knowledge of the Soviet capability. But the Russians must be made aware that the West has not only the ability to protect itself against gas but also the capacity to develop and deploy chemical weapons of its own. Otherwise the incentive is lacking for the Soviet Union to negotiate seriously with a view to banning chemical weapons.

To be effective, this approach must be combined with a vigorous diplomatic effort to negotiate a comprehensive ban. The international treaties on both chemical and biological weapons are unsatisfactory. The 1925 Geneva protocol on chemical warfare bans the first use of chemical weapons, but not their manufacture or stockpiling. The 1972 convention on biological warfare (ratified in 1975), by contrast, bans the manufacture of biological weapons and toxins, but not — absurdly — their use. These anomalies must be properly considered within the frame work of the current disarmament talks at Geneva, together with ways in which infringements of a comprehensive ban might be detected.

Verification is difficult, not least since active chemical agents can be manufactured and stored separately, and only brought together when required. But it is not impossible to devise verification procedures, provided the parties to the treaty agree to on-site inspection, something the Russians have refused to do. They have also refused to assist United Nations investigations in to allegations of chemical warfare in Afghanistan and South East Asia. The Americans also have reason to suspect the Soviet Union of a breach of the convention on biological weapons. If in these circumstances the Americans are alarmed by the prospect of Russian dominance in a particulary horrifying area of warfare, the Russians can have only themselves to blame.

Art and tax debts

From Mr George Levy

Sir, It is greatly to be hoped that the dire forbodings in the art world accurately reported by Miss Frances Gibb (February 3) will turn out to be without foundation when the Government's response is announced to certain constructive proposals of the select committee urging administrative reforms to encourage retention in this country of our cultural heritage.

One of the most serious fears is to the effect that the Treasury, and through it the Inland Revenue, are resisting the committee's far-seeing recommendation (surely supported by the Minister for the Arts) that the terms fixing the amount of tax satisfied by the statutorily tax-free surrender of works of art in discharge of tax liabilities should now be made more attractive to those faced with heavy capital transfer tax demands.

The eyes of the art world will be on Mr Nicholas Ridley, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, when he is questioned by the select committee on February 24. Will he on this occasion forbear to play his department's automatic, unreasoning role of "abominable no-man"?

Miss Gibb pertinently drew attention to the existence of the scale of funding now becoming available to foreign buyers which could induce British tax debtors to ignore facilities which, though they exist in legal theory, are nevertheless stultified in practice by administrative discouragement. But is not this a situation which is likely to meet with a (doubtless unconfessed) welcome from the Inland Revenue, with its evident vested interest in our heritage being dispersed overseas for taxable cash at the highest prices in the open market?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J LEVY, Director,
H. Blairman and Sons,
119 Mount Street, W1.
February 4

University challenge

From Professor P. C. Bayley

Sir, The Vice-Chancellor of London University (February 2) wrote only of Britain's need of universities in terms of their contribution to industry, science, technology, management, law and medicine — the necessary sciences and arts. He signally omitted to mention Humane Letters and the Polite Arts to which his own distinguished academic career has been devoted. Whether this was calculated or not, the inference may be drawn — and ought to be drawn, and I as one who professes a non-scientific, non-technological subject would strongly urge it — that a beleaguered industrial nation really cannot and ought not go on maintaining so marked a mandarin emphasis as Britain does.

Yours faithfuly,
P. C. BAYLEY,
70 Winram Place,
St Andrews,
Fife.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Safeguards on insemination

From Mr P. A. F. Chalk and others

Sir, The letter from Dr Snowden and Professor Mitchell (February 4) brings into the open the concern which surrounds the establishment of foetal embryo banks and the freezing of human semen and ova for future use in human reproduction or research in embryo development, etc. It is immportant, however, to recognize those areas of established treatment which need to be safeguarded.

The collection, freezing and use of donor semen is an important and established practice where the male partner is azoospermic. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have given guidelines which have been valuable in ensuring that the highest ethical and profesional standards are observed in conditions of complete confidentiality.

The *in vitro* fertilization technique pioneered by Steptoe and Edwards using semen and ova from a husband and wife has provided a means whereby married couples can achieve a pregnancy which is genetically theirs when the normal processes of fertilization and implantation are rendered impossible by the complete and irreversible occlusion of the fallopian tubes. It would be sad if a moratorium on the retrieval of ova should interfere with this valuable form of treatment.

The possibility of the use of donor semen and donor ova, and the subsequent implantation into the uterus of a patient with whom there is no genetic relationship, opens an entirely new field. To our knowledge this has not been done so far, but workers in the field of extra corporeal fertilization have stated their intention of doing so. It is to this matter and the storage of ova and semen for the same ends, or for research, that the most urgent attention should be focused. To delay could lead to a fait accompli with such questions as the rights of the foetus, the genetic parents, and the recipient woman left unanswered. The status of an ovum before and after fertilization must be resolved.

We, the National Health Service consultants, are not involved in the programme of extra-corporeal fertilization currently being undertaken at this hospital.

Whilst we would welcome guidelines from the Royal College, we feel that the fundamental issues involved are so important that the medical profession should not attempt to handle them on their own. It is to be hoped that religious leaders, lawyers, politicians, and all those with a serious concern for ethical and moral welfare, willl share in this responsibility and make their views known.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. F. CHALK,
VALERIE M. THOMPSON,
LUPA EPSZTEJN,
The Royal Free Hospital,
Pond Street,
Hampstead, NW3.
February 9.

From Mr Peter Kane

Sir, I detect a note of undue censoriousness in the letter on human embryo banks from Dr Robert Snowden and Professor G. Duncan Mitchell (Feb 4) where they refer to a "masturbatorium" in Adelaide, South Australia, in which donors provide their donation in conditions of some comfort, including the availability of 'girlie' magazines".

Surely it would be counterproductive (if I may avail myself of the expression in this context) to expect the donors to take cold baths and think of Australia?

Yours, etc.,
PETER KANE,
Flat 3,
116 South Hill Park,
Hampstead, NW3.
February 4

Mixed fortunes

From Mrs S. M. Newton

Sir, The fortunes of "The Fortune Teller" (letters, January 20, 23) should perhaps be compared with those of National Gallery 3831, catalogued in 1929 as "school of Melozzo" and now in the reserve. It, too, was enthusiastically commended and by a director of the Courtauld Institute. When, in the early 1920s it came up for sale, he and several distinguished colleagues in the art world persuaded the National Gallery that it should buy the painting, which it did. It hung in the appropriate gallery until, several years later, an Italian visitor pointed out that it included a portrait of the man who had taught him to paint.

Today the clothes in 3831 look as ludicrously inspired by the fashions of the early twentieth century as, I believe, given time, the clothes in "The Fortune Teller" will be seen to have been inspired by the fashions of the middle of that century. Those who are young enough should, perhaps, be prepared to wait.

Yours obediently,
STELLA MARY NEWTON,
3 Cumberland Gardens,
Lloyd Square, WC1.
February 2.

Restrictive practices

From Mr Charles Whiffin

Sir, I find the reasoning of the RAC spokesman you quote (*The Times*, February 5) slightly hard to follow.

If they refuse to list an hotel in their guide because it does not admit smokers, since "many of our members are smokers", what then is the logic in listing hotels which do not admit children?

Is one to assume that there are not many members of the RAC who have children?

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WHIFFIN,
10a, Elmcourt Road,
West Norwood, SE27.

The British view of enterprise

From Mr Ray Whitney, MP for Wycombe (Conservative),

Sir, It has been a widely held view, at least until recently, that one significant measure and cause of the difference between the resilience of the American economy and the sluggishness of our own was to be found in the respective national attitudes to entrepreneurs. Most Americans seemed to take pride in their success and regard them as examplars of what can be achieved, to the benefit of society by individuals fired with courage and vision. In Britain the dominant response was a mean and aggresively egalitarian hostility to anyone who dared to try to lift himself out of the dreary mudflats of the corporatist state.

One very bright spot in the gloom of the Laker collapse has been the strength of the demonstration that most of us are now imbued with a totally different spirit. The great majority have shown their deep admiration and affection for Sir Freddie Laker - warts, mistakes and all.

It is the clearest possible indication that the penny has, at last, dropped. There is now wide understanding that economic growth and jobs cannot be left to the state but will only be produced in a society which allows entrepreneurs to flourish. The Government must seize the opportunity created by this mood and press on with the liberalisation of the economy.

Of course, it is inevitable that there will be pockets of resistance from the usual sources of die-hard reaction. The. Communist Party newspaper and the leader of the "Liberal" Party - well ahead in the polls as leader of the Alliance - use remarkably similar language as they exult in Sir Freddie's downfall and call for more state intervention. To the *Morning Star* he is "the typical creation of the free-market economy" and for Mr David Steel he represents "the latest nail in the coffin" of "the free economic theories of this Government," theories which Mr Steel is at pains to reject. Whatever happened to Liberalism?

Yours sincerely,
RAY WHITNEY,
House of Commons.
February 8

From Mr S. P. Morse

Sir, In your editorial, "Sell! Sell! Sell!" (February 8), you seem to equate nationalization with bad management, particularly in relation to British Airways.

Bad management is often a result of human inadequacy and usually has little to do with the "ownership" of the enterprise. One might indeed say that in nationalized industries the results of such bad management as occurs are not visited to the same extent on customers (such as Laker ticket holders!) or staff (Laker pilots!) who have had absolutely no responsibility for that management.

Also the idea that Laker, because he was a mouthpiece for free enterprise was *ipso facto* a good manager is manifest nonsense. The managers running BA for the last 15 years have surmounted far bigger problems than Laker — a hostile press for one!

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN P. MORSE,
255 Hills Road,
Cambridge.
February 8.

From Mr A D R Holland

Sir, If the Government really does wish to sell British Airways, it should negotiate an immediate rescue on a strictly commercial basis for Laker Airways and merge it into BA with Sir Freddie Laker as Chairman. He would then be given the task of restructuring the enlarged enterprise to produce an internationally acceptable level of efficiency prior to disposal.

If he were to achieve this daunting objective, and Sir Freddie is just the kind of man who could carry his employees with him, either the airline would be profitable or the Government would be in a position to make it so by getting tough with those countries whose airlines could be seen to be in receipt of subsidies on United Kingdom routes. After all, it is these subsidised airlines, including our own British Airways, which have grounded Laker Airways. It was not lack of efficiency.

A revitalized and profitable BA, with Sir Freddie as its boss, would be a natural investment for tens of thousands of people who would not have been able to visit distant lands without his vision and resolve and this has been well illustrated by wide public support shown for him in recent days.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY HOLLAND,
7-8 Warwick Street, W1.
February 8.

From Mr D. C. Damant

Sir, Your leader on the collapse of Laker Airways does not, I think, go to the heart of the matter. Air fares across the Atlantic and on many other routes are too low. The fact that cartel arrangements may in some places protect inefficiency does not take away from the fact that attempt to lower fares has produced revenues inadequate to cover the real cost of the considerable capital employed in the purchase of expensive aircraft.

In a world of scarce resources, the greatest benefits are obtained by the efficient use of capital, not by its careless consumption. The Laker affair shows that one cannot fly in the face of reality forever.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID C. DAMANT
Garrard House,
Gresham Street, EC2.
February 8.

Unions and the media

From Mr Michael Meacher, MP for Oldham, West (Labour)

Sir, The Aslef dispute has highlighted yet again the bias in the press treatment of industrial relations. It took "blacking" action by Aslef members at Kings Cross to secure a right of reply to *The Sun's* front-page and uncorroborated and indiscriminate allegations of "fiddling and cheating" by railmen. Many deplored the blacking, but did any of them also demand that a right of reply be formally instituted so that it does not have to be enforced by such means in future?

It is not as though the problem is new. At the TUC's Day of Action on May 14, 1980, calculations show that Fleet Street's five tabloid dailies (the *Express*, *Mail*, *Sun*, *Star* and *Mirror*) allocated 2,209 column inches to hysterical opposition to it, and only 254 to stating what was to happen in a non-derogatory fashion. Not a single inch of 334 given to editorial consideration of the day was other than hostile. Phraseology like the *Express* reference to the "unelected Lenin Murray and his bully boys" (who, by the way, elected the paper's editor, Derek Jameson?) was commonplace. Not a single feature appeared offering space to any of the leaders of the demonstration to explain why they had called it and what they were trying to achieve.

Such examples are legion at the time of every major industrial dispute. It is high time newspaper proprietors accepted that freedom of the press does not mean a licence to print their own sectional propaganda, but rather equality of access to the media irrespective of wealth or class interest. The Press Council (which itself badly needs reforming by being given statutory powers) should use research systematically to monitor breaches of this principle by each newspaper, publishing the results at regular intervals.

If the principle were still not implemented voluntarily, a statutory right of reply should then be introduced by law. This would make equal space mandatorily available, with equal prominence to that of the original offending article and within three days thereafter, for any aggrieved party who could show to the satisfaction of the appropriate adjudicating body that they had been grossly and inaccurately misrepresented.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL MEACHER,
House of Commons.
February 7.

Solo performance

From Mrs Pauline Hallam

Sir, He won't get the George Medal: at best the opprobrium of his fellow workers; more likely the lynch mob.

But may I salute the courage of the lone train driver to break the Aslef strike?

Yours sincerely,
PAULINE HALLAM,
13 Blind Lane,
Bourne End,
Buckinghamshire.
February 9.

SDP and socialism

From Mr R. G. Sawyer

Sir, In case your readers should believe that the Reverend Martin Camroux and Mr Lacey (February 2) represent a widespread internal view of the SDP, may I suggest that they are in fact suffering from a severe attack of 'future shock'.

They make it clear that their only motive for joining the SDP was the accelerating process of dissolution within the Labour Party. It is obvious that this factor will have motivated many recruits, but it has always been equally obvious that the majority of SDP members never conceived the new party to be any sort of modification of the Labour Party, be it Mark 4 or 24.

Your correspondents' belief that adherence to selected political stances of the past is the only legitimate path to truth and social justice merely emphasizes their mistake in thinking that the SDP was to be a reformed version of a discredited model. It is their determination to stick to the cliches of the past that is divisive, not the search for consensus.

None of us believes that the class divisions of centuries can be healed easily, but seeking agreement and acknowledging the evils of division by whatever prejudice is as good a place to start as any.

Perhaps what Mr Camroux and Mr Lacey forgot when they joined those of us without previous political affiliations is that social democrats believe in the exercise of choice as the essential component of freedom. Could it be that their previous experience in the Labour Party had not prepared them for such a revelation?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT G. SAWYER,
Vice-Chairman, Dunbartonshire SDP,
Woodend, 33 Queen Street,
Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire.

Proper names

From Lieutenant-Colonel B. W. W. Barrett

Sir, After a number of years of overseas service, I treasure the electricity accounts I have been receiving since my return to England, addressed to: "Colonial Barrett."

I am , Sir, Your obedient servant,
B. W. W. BARRETT,
8 Newlands Avenue,
Radlett, Hertfordshire.

Dangers of lead in petrol

From the Managing Director of the Associated Octel Company Limited

Sir, Your leader of today's date (February 9) appears to indicate that some new medical evidence has been found upon which your remarks about lead and mental health could be based.

The fact remains that no new medical evidence has been produced to support the original interpretation of Needleman's work published in 1978. While not criticising the quality of the results, the interpretation placed on those results is still open to question, and in fact was rejected by the Lawther commitee. A number of medical studies are now in progress thoughout the world to try to clarify the issue.

The loudness of the clamour from the CLEAR campaign is not evidence. Expressions of opinion are clearly the right of everyone. The unwillingness of the media in general to provide an equal opportunity for those not in agreement with the CLEAR campaign and its predecessors to present their views, can at best be described as dismal. It could also be described as censorship.

Yours very truly,
A. E. J. YELLAND,
Managing Director,
The Associated Octel Company Limited,
20 Berkeley Square, W1.
February 9.

From the Director General of the United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association Limited

Sir, The investment cost figure of £200m mentioned in your leader (February 9) does not relate to elimination of lead from petrol, as you suggest, but to reduction of lead content from 0.4 grams /litre to 0.15 g/l.

One of the possible solutions considered by Government last year as a means of reducing lead emissions was the introduction of unleaded 92 octane petrol to which the car population could progressively switch. The oil industry made clear its willingness to accept this and it would be quite untrue to suggest that we sought to prevent it. However, we recognise that such a step would have widespread implications for the motor industry, for energy conservation and for EEC commitments which only Government could assess.

In the end, Government decided on the alternative course of a reduction in lead level to 0.15 g/l and the oil industry is now working towards implementing this, at considerable expense. Obviously, the major part of this expenditure would be redundant if Government decided to move to 92 octane unleaded petrol thereafter.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS HARVEY,
Director General,
United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association Ltd.
9 Kingsway, WC2.
February 9.

Unversed

From Mr J. A. Day

Sir, The published aim of The Associated Examining Board's Ordinary-level English literature syllabus is "to encourage wide reading and, where possible, to relate literature to modern life". Many would argue that the selection of books listed in Mr P. J. Hope's letter of January 26 is more likely to stimulate a young person's appreciation and enjoyment of English literature than a restricted diet of poetry and Shakespeare.

Although the syllabus is not designed primarily for young people proposing to read English literature at university, it does include a Shakespeare play, which is chosen by the vast majority of candidates, and it offers a choice of three poetry anthologies, including Elizabethan lyrics, Wordsworth, Keats and Yeats, mentioned in Lord David Cecil's letter of January 13.

The board entirely agrees with your correspondents that poetry is central to any study of English literature, but it does not wish to make it an examination requirement for all candidates. The continued popularity of this syllabus suggests that English teachers welcome the freedom to choose a selection of books which is suitable for their own students and which provides them with rewarding and enjoyable study.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. DAY, Secretary General,
The Associated Examining Board for the General Certificate of Education,
Wellington House,
Aldershot,
Hampshire,
January 28.

Cloying the palate

From Mr Llew Gardner

Sir, Mr Gerald Long (feature, February 6) complains of the sauce "masking" the flavour of his turbot at Le Gavroche restaurant.

I have never eaten at this establishment, but I found the flavour of Mr Long's correspondence with Mr Roux to be quite ruined by a rich pomposity. My sympathy goes out both to the patient Mr Roux and his long-suffering cheese waiter.

Yours faithfully,
LLEW GARDNER,
12 St Ann's Gardens, NW5.
February 6.

From Mr Neville Braybrooke

Sir, I have not been to Le Gavroche restaurant. But turbot in a port wine sauce sounds a vile mixture. What about a dish of sardines and prunes as a starter?

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE BRAYBROOKE,
10 Gardnor Road, NW3.
February 6.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 9: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Her Majesty, Patron, and The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon visited the Headquarters of the British Veterinary Association, 7, Mansfield Street, W1 to mark the Centenary of the Association.

The Queen and His Royal Highness, having been received upon arrival by the President (Doctor T. E. Gibson), toured the Headquarters. Her Majesty unveiled a commemorative plaque.

The Duchess of Grafton, Sir William Heseltine and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Right Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, accompanied by The Princess of Wales, this morning presided at a meeting of The Prince's Council at 10, Buckingham Gate, London SW1 and afterwards gave a luncheon at Buckingham Palace for members of the Council.

His Royal Highness, Patron, this evening attended a reception to mark the end of the International Year of Disabled People at 23, Chesham Place, London SW1.

The Hon Edward Adeane was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Honorary Air Commodore, this afternoon at Gatcombe Park received Group Captain J. Hardstaff on relinquishing command and Group Captain C. Evans on assuming command of Royal Air Force Lyneham.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 9: Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon Peter Lewis today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's), upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer of the Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Nash also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's).

Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded the Hon Mrs John Mulholland as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
February 9: Princess Alexandra this evening visited the Charterhouse-in-Southwark Mission, Crosby Row, London SE1.

Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

A stained glass window in memory of Field Marshal Sir Geoffrey Baker will be dedicated at a service in the Royal Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst, on Sunday, June 20, 1982, at 11.00 am.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. B. Appleby and Miss A. C. Tatton-Brown
The engagement is announced between Patrick, younger son of Mrs K. Appleby, of Bassett, Southampton, and the late Kenneth Appleby, and Charlotte, daughter of Lady Kenya Tatton-Brown and the late John Tatton-Brown, of Westergate Wood, Chichester.

Mr M. Morton and Miss E. Ballie
The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of the late Mr J. W. Morton and Mrs Morton, of Werrington, Peterborough, and Elizabeth, second daughter of Major the Hon Peter and Mrs Baillie, of Wootton Hall, New Milton, Hampshire.

Mr A. J. M. Sinclair and Miss J. Paulding
The engagement is announced between Andrew John McTaggart, elder son of Sir Ian and Lady Sinclair, of Wimbledon, London, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs N. A. Paulding, of Chelmsford, Essex.

Mr R. Y. Athony and Miss M. R. Wenley
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Dr and Mrs Ywan Anthony, of Solihull, and Mary, daughter of Mr Paul Wenley, of Canterbury, and Mrs Daphne Garwood, of Solihull.

Mr D. S. Bowring and Miss J. L. Bannister
The engagement is announced between Duncan, younger son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Bowring, of Halton Park, Lancaster, and Louise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Bannister, of Coniston Hall, Skipton, North Yorkshire.

Mr J. D. Byers Graves and Miss M. E. Black
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, youngest son of Mrs Adeline Byers Graves and the late Mr Cyril St John Byers Graves, of Totteridge, London, and Mary, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Iain Black, of Moseley, Birmingham.

Mr A. St. J. Price and Miss D. M. Lawford
The engagement is announced between Aubrey St John Price (John), elder son of the late Major Trevor Price and Mrs Kathleen Price, of The Garden Cottage, Doughton, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, and Diana Mary, twin daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. Lawford, MC, and Mrs James Lawford, of Shapley Heath, Winchfield, Hampshire.

Mr P. Cleary and Miss S. Hale
The engagement is announced between Philip, eldest son of Mr and Mrs M. Cleary, of Effingham, Surrey, and Sally, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs M. J. H. Hale, of Steyning, West Sussex.

Mr F. Flynn and Miss D. H. P. Langdon
The engagement is announced between Fergus, son of Mr and Mrs O. H. A. Flynn, of 3 Fanum House, Selbourne Avenue, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, and Diana, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. C. Langdon, of 10 Rook Hill Road, Friarscliff, Christchurch, Dorset.

Mr P. E. Crossley and Miss J. M. French
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of the late Mr T. Crossley, OBE, and the late Mrs M. Dixon, and nephew of Miss A. Crossley, of Matlock, Derbyshire, and Jenny, daughter of Captain C. A. French, CBE, RN, and Mrs French, of The Old Rectory, Stoke Abbott, Dorset.

Mr S. E. Harman and Miss C. H. Colver
The engagement is announced between Stephen, elder son of the late Mr Edward Harman and Mrs Margaret Drover, of Binfield Heath, Oxfordshire, and Cherry, youngest daughter of the late Mr Michael Colver and Mrs Bettine Colver, formerly of Sheffield and Malaga, Spain.

Mr M. R. Hudson and Miss M. S. Howard
The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Michael Roy Hudson, Royal Corps of Transport, only son of Mr and Mrs R. Hudson, of Salford, Lancashire, and Captain Maureen Susan Howard, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs D. Howard, of Borough Green, Kent.

Mr M. J. Moorhouse and Miss J. M. Rossitter
The engagement is announced between Martin James, elder son of Mr J. A. H. Moorhouse and Mrs E. M. Moorhouse, of Whetstone, London, N20, and Jane Marion, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Rossiter, of The Wall House, Cottenham Park Road, Wimbledon.

Mr R. A. N. Welham and Dr A. M. Crone
The engagement is announced between Richard Welham, FRCS, elder son of Mr and Mrs A. Welham, formerly of Roundhay, Leeds, and Mary, daughter of the late Mr W. P. Crone, FRCS, and Dr A. A. Crone, of Headingley, Leeds.

Luncheons

Brewers' Company
The Master of the Brewers' Company, Sir Keith Showering, the Wardens and the court of assistants entertained the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs and other guests at a luncheon held at Brewers' Hall yesterday.

Women's Advertising Club of London
Mr Barry Humphries was the guest speaker at a luncheon given by the Women's Advertising Club of London at the Savoy Hotel yesterday. Miss Sue Stoessl, president, was in the chair.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Sir Nigel Fisher, MP, deputy chairman, UK branch, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, was host at a luncheon given yesterday in the House of Commons by the executive committee of the branch in honour of the High Commissioner for Zimbabwe.

Receptions

HM Government
Her Majesty's Government gave a reception yesterday evening at Lancaster House in honour of parliamentary delegates and officials of the Western European Union who are attending a colloquy on international aeronautical consortia. The Minister of State for Defence Procurement, Viscount Trenchard, received the guests.

Wedgwood
The Duke of Kent was present at a reception given yesterday evening by the Chairman and Directors of Wedgwood held to mark the modernization of the London Showrooms at Wedgwood House, 34 Wigmore Street. Among those present were: Mr Kenneth Baker, MP, Mr W. J. Benson, Mr John Biffen, MP, and Mrs Biffen, Viscount and Viscountess Boyne, Lt-Commander Richard Buckley, Mr and Mrs John Gainer, Viscount and Viscountess Caldecote, Sir Peter and Lady Carey, Mr W. Craddock, Lady Day, the Hon Sir Hugh Fraser, Mr and Mrs Joslyn Hamilton, Sir John and Lady Hermon, Sir Brian and Lady Kellett, Mr and Mrs Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Lord and Lady Maclean, Mr and Mrs Lionel Murray, Sir Richard and Lady O'Brien, Lord and Lady O'Neill of The Maine, Sir Frank and Lady Price, Lord and Lady Redmayne, Mr and Mrs John Reilly, Sir Bryan and Lady Roberts, Professor and Mrs Roland Smith, Sir Arthur and Lady Snelling, Major-General and Mrs Ward-Booth and Mr and Mrs Wedgwood-Smith.

Dinner

Company of Watermen and Lightermen
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs attended a dinner given by the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames at Fishmonger's Hall yesterday. The Master, Mr C. P. Braithwaite, presided, assisted by the Senior Warden, Mr Alderman Christopher Rawson, and Junior Wardens, Mr A. C. Clark-Kennedy and Mr D. J. Piper.

Service dinner

No 18 Group
A guest night for the regional and station commanders and staff of No 18 Group and their ladies was held last night in the Officers' Mess, RAF Bentley Priory. Group Captain M. M. Dalston presided and Air Marshal Sir John Curtiss, Air Officer Commanding No 18 Group, also spoke. Among those present were Air Vice-Marshals D. C. A. Lloyd J. F. G. Howe and C. A. Chesworth.

Birthdays today



Mr Harold Macmillan, OM, the former Prime Minister, who is 88.

Mr Larry Adler, 68; Dame Judith Anderson, 84; Lieutenant-General Sir Nigel Bagnall, 55; Miss Olwyn Bowey, 46; Mrs Elisabeth Carson, 90; Sir Charles Collins, 95; Dr Alexander Comfort, 62; Mr John Gilpin, 52; Dr Walter Hamilton, 74; Field Marshal Lord Harding of Petherton, 86; Sir Alister Hardy, 86; Professor J. Heslop-Harrison, 62; Lord Milne, 73; Lord Orr-Ewing, 70.

Lord Cayzer

The life barony conferred on Sir William Nicholas Cayzer has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Cayzer, of St Mary Axe in the City of London.

CORRECTION

The photograph on the Court Page yesterday was of Landseer's "The Monarch of the Glen" and not "The Stag at Bay".



Another medal for Coe

Sebastian Coe (above), the Olympic gold medallist and triple world record holder, with the insignia of the MBE presented to him by the Queen at Buckingham Palace yesterday. He said afterwards: "This must rank even higher than an Olympic gold medal."

Also at the Palace yesterday was Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, who was knighted. He is seen (below) with his wife.

Others honoured yesterday included Sir Lawrence Barratt, chairman of Barratt Development Company, who was also knighted, and Surgeon Captain Norman Blacklock, the medical officer who has looked after the Queen on royal tours overseas since 1976, who was made a member of the Royal Victorian Order, Fourth Class.



Glass proves hard to sell

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A sale of fine English and Continental glass met a muted response at Christie's yesterday, with 36 per cent left unsold. German and other Continental glass, bought expensively in London in the 1970s proved difficult to sell.

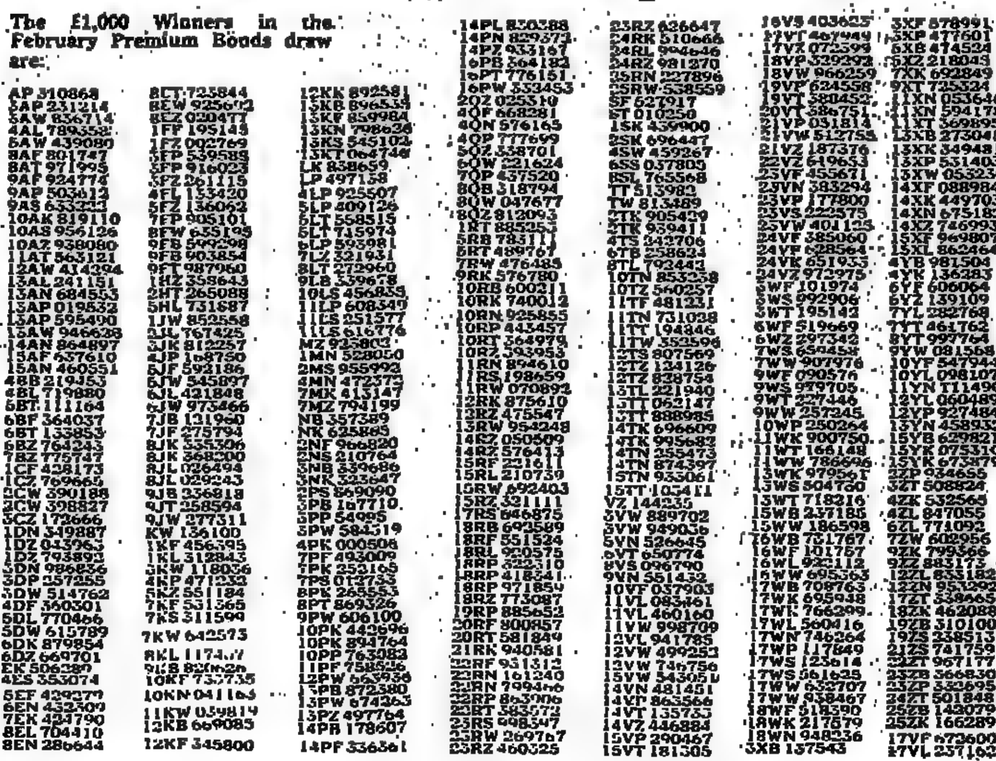
Among Continental pieces that found buyers were a Venetian diamond-engraved armorial tazza of about 1600 at £2,700 (estimate £2,500-£3,500) and an elaborate gilt and marbled beaker of pseudo-Gothic design by Friedrich Egermann, of Blottendorf, dating from about 1830, at £2,160.

The Corning Museum paid £1,944 for a North Bohemian "Jagd" flared beaker of about 1840, estimated by Christie's to fetch £500 to £800.

British museums were pursuing items of local interest. The Preston Museum outbid Aspreys to secure a cut-glass rummer engraved with two racehorses approaching the winning post and the inscriptions: "Doctor Syntax beating Filho Deputa" and "Preston 1816". The price was £453 (estimate £200-£300).

£1,000 Premium Bond prizewinners

The £1,000 Winners in the February Premium Bonds draw are:



AP 310868	8CT 725844	12KK 892581	14PL 850388	23RZ 626647	16VS 403625	3XF 878991
2AP 231214	8EW 925602	13KB 896539	14PN 829373	24RK 510666	17VT 467949	3XP 477601
3AW 836714	8EZ 020477	13KF 859984	14PZ 933167	24RL 994646	17VZ 072599	6XB 474524
4AL 789358	1FF 195143	13KN 798628	16PB 564182	24RZ 981270	18VP 329292	6XZ 218043
5AW 439080	1FZ 002769	13KS 545102	16PT 776151	25RN 227896	18VW 966259	7XK 692849
8AF 801747	3FP 539588	13KT 064746	16PW 333453	25RW 538559	19VP 624558	9XT 725324
8AT 971995	3FP 916023	LK 838659	2QZ 025310	SF 627917	19VT 380452	11XN 053646
9AF 924774	3FZ 261115	LP 497158	4QF 668281	ST 010250	20VT 586751	11XN 594178
9AP 503612	4FL 133420	4LP 925507	4QN 576165	1SK 439900	21VP 031814	11XT 369895
9AS 633233	5FZ 136062	5LP 409126	4QP 777699	2SK 696447	21VW 512755	13XB 273045
10AK 819110	7FP 905101	5LT 558515	5QZ 338701	4SW 459267	21VZ 187376	13XK 349481
10AS 956126	8FW 655195	5LT 715974	6QW 221624	6SS 037805	22VZ 619653	13XP 531403
10AZ 938080	9FB 599298	6LP 593981	7QP 437520	8SL 765568	23VF 455671	13XW 053230
11AT 563121	9FB 903854	7LZ 321931	8QB 318794	TT 513982	23VN 383294	14XF 088984
12AW 414394	9FT 987960	8LT 272960	8QW 047677	TW 813489	23VP 177800	14XK 449703
13AL 241151	1HZ 358643	9LB 339678	8QZ 812093	2TK 905429	23VS 222575	14XN 675183
13AN 684553	2HT 265088	10LS 456855	1RT 885253	2TK 939411	25VW 401125	14XZ 746993
13AP 019532	5HL 731687	11LP 608349	5RB 783111	4TS 342706	24VF 385060	15XF 969807
13AP 595490	1JW 852558	11LS 251577	5RT 489767	6TB 258624	24VF 628564	15XL 862464
15AW 946638	3JL 767425	11LS 616776	7RW 476485	8TL 792442	24VK 651933	4YB 981504
14AN 864897	3JK 812257	MZ 935803	9RK 576780	10TN 853258	24VZ 972975	4YK 136283
15AF 637610	4JP 168750	1MN 528050	10RB 600211	10TZ 560257	3WF 101974	6YF 606064
15AN 460551	5JF 592186	2MS 955992	10RK 740012	11TF 481231	3WS 992906	6YZ 139109
4BB 219453	5JW 545897	4MN 472379	10RN 925855	11TN 731028	3WT 195142	7YL 282769
4BL 719880	6JL 421848	7MK 413147	10RP 443457	11TT 194846	6WF 519669	7YT 461762
5BT 111164	6JW 973466	7MZ 794199	10RT 364979	11TW 352596	6WZ 297342	8YT 997764
6BF 364037	7JB 121960	NB 357389	10RZ 393953	12TS 807569	7WS 659458	9YW 081568
6BT 133853	7JF 275794	NK 625885	11RN 894610	12TZ 124126	7WW 907976	10YF 547944
6BZ 764243	8JK 335306	2NF 966820	11RS 198659	12TZ 838754	9WF 090576	10YL 098107
7BZ 775747	8JK 368200	2NS 210764	11RW 070892	13TL 221940	9WS 979705	11YN 711490
1CF 428173	8JL 026494	3NB 339686	12RK 875610	13TT 062147	9WT 227446	12YL 060489
1CZ 769665	8JL 029243	3NK 323647	12RZ 475547	13TT 888985	9WW 257245	12YP 927484
2CW 390188	9JB 336818	2PS 869090	13RW 954248	14TK 696609	10WP 250264	13YN 458932
2CW 398827	9JT 258594	3PB 167710	14RZ 050509	14TK 995682	11WK 900750	15YB 629821
3CZ 172666	9JW 277311	3PP 54995	14RZ 576413	14TN 255473	11WT 166148	15YK 075310
1DN 349887	KW 136100	3PW 584319	15RF 221611	14TN 874397	11WW 786696	15YK 673879
1DZ 043965	1KF 456395	4PK 000506	15RL 210739	15TN 933061	13WK 979567	2ZP 934655
1DZ 793893	1KL 312843	7PF 493009	15RW 692403	15TT 105411	13WS 504750	3ZT 508824
3DN 986836	3KW 118036	7PK 253165	15RZ 321111	VZ 144235	13WT 718216	4ZK 532565
3DP 257255	4KP 471232	7PS 012733	17RS 646875	3VW 889702	15WB 237185	4ZL 847055
3DW 514762	5KZ 551184	8PK 265553	18RB 693589	3VW 949036	15WW 186598	6ZL 774092
4DF 360301	7KF 531365	8PT 869326	18RF 551524	5VN 526645	16WB 731767	7ZW 602956
5DL 770466	7KS 311599	9PW 606100	18RL 920575	6VT 650774	16WF 101757	9ZK 799366
5DW 615789	7KW 642573	10PK 442696	18RP 322310	8VS 096790	16WL 923112	9ZZ 883173
6DK 879854	8KL [illegible]	10PK 894764	18RP 418541	9VN 551432	16WW 695363	12ZL 835182
6DZ 669701	9KB [illegible]	10PP 763083	18RP 971859	10VF 037903	17WB 708763	12ZN 953292
EK 506389	10KF 737735	11PF 758526	18RZ 773087	11VL 083461	17WK 695948	17ZT 338665
4ES 353074	10KN 041163	12PW 563936	19RP 885652	11VL 460160	17WL 766299	18ZK 462088
5EF 439279	11KW 059819	13PB 872380	20RF 800857	11VW 998709	17WL 560416	19ZB 310100
6EN 432309	12KB 669085	13PW 674363	20RT 581849	12VL 941785	17WN 746264	19ZS 238513
7EK 434790	12KF 345800	13PZ 497764	21RK 940581	12VW 499253	17WP 117849	21ZS 741759
8EL 704410		14PB 178607	22RF 951312	12VW 746756	17WS 123614	22ZT 967177
8EN 286644		14PF 336561	22RN 161240	15VW 543051	17WS 561625	23ZB 366830
			22RN 799466	14VN 481451	17WW 632707	23ZP 332695
			22RP 863906	14VP 863566	17WW 938467	24ZT 501848
			23RT 383572	14VT 135735	18WF 518390	25ZB 143079
			23RS 998547	14VZ 446884	18WK 217579	25ZK 166289
			23RW 269767	15VP 290467	18WN 948236	17VF 673600
			23RZ 460325	15VT 181305	3XB 137543	17VL 237162

Moreover . . . Miles Kington

A tearful Sir Peter Parker said today that he was absolutely overwhelmed by the way ordinary members of the public had flocked to his support after British Rail had gone bankrupt. More than £15m had been sent in by fare-dodgers alone, and another £3.60 or more had been left anonymously in a local train to Leamington Spa.

"It's staggering. It's unbelievable", said Sir Peter, tearfully brushing back an accountant last night at the appeal HQ at King's Cross. "They haven't just sent money, they've sent thousands of sandwiches, hundreds of Scotch eggs and a whole signal box that someone took home by mistake. Loyalty on this scale makes you want to go on fighting to the bitter end, or Didcot, if that's where we have to terminate."

Hundreds of Parker's long-term staff marched on Downing Street yesterday to present a petition to the Prime Minister, asking for British Rail to receive another government hand-out. When the front door refused to open, a small squad of experienced guards beat on it, crying: "Come on, open up, or just push your ticket out under the door!" Later they confirmed they had been allowed inside No 10 and had tracked the Prime Minister down to a locked lavatory, but would not say whether they had received an answer.

Meanwhile, the City's attempt to put together a package to save British Rail had met with disappointing results. The package had been put together all right, but after it had been delivered to Paddington it had been lost sight of; staff claimed it had been put on the last train to Exeter, but the parcels staff at Exeter reported no such package arriving, or indeed any such train.

"It's things like this that make travelling by train the last great adventure", a still tearful Sir Peter Parker claimed late last night as he fought to keep together the travel network he has built up from a small profitable link between Stockton and Darlington to a huge, nationwide loss-making project. "It's marvellous to think that in this day and age you can get on the 9.10 express from Edinburgh in the morning and arrive the same evening somewhere totally unexpected."

It still seems unthinkable to most people that British Rail could ever disappear. It has weathered so many storms already, having survived the switch-over from steam to diesel and electric, from profit to loss, and now the final transfer from rail to road and air. All through it has been Sir Peter Parker's dream to give the travelling public rail journeys at prices the Government could afford, and to that end he had invented such revolutionary devices as the Awayday Breakfast, the Single Parent in a Stress Situation Concession, York Railway Museum and Jimmy Savile, OBE.

"Yes, guys and gals, it's absolutely true", says Jimmy Savile, OBE. "From tomorrow you won't be able to travel anywhere in the country by rail; thanks to bankruptcy — and it's all totally free! How's about that?"

The receiver's first job will be to sell off the parts of British Rail for which buyers can be found, notably the lucrative Inter-City Corridor Coffee Empire and the world famous Guards Announcement Training and Elocution Centre at Doncaster. The Spanish World Cup organizers are expressing keen interest in buying the British Rail Police Force outright — no one has greater experience of British sports lovers — and the receiver says that this is the first time an entire trade union, Aslef, has ever come on to the market in mint condition, though nobody has expressed any interest whatsoever so far.

But what of Sir Peter Parker?

"We'll probably get a few bob for him too", said a tearful receiver. "I just hope I don't have to split him up too, and sell his knighthood off separately".

Latest appointments

The following have been appointed Recorders, assigned to the South Eastern Circuit:

Mr P K Archer, QC, Mr C J A Barnett, Mr R J A Batt, Mr A E Brooks, Mr E C Evans-Lombe, QC, Mr A M Hill, Mr C C D Lindsay, Mrs Barbara J L Mills, Mr J Morris, QC, Mr C W F Newman, Mr A S T E Nicol, Miss Valerie A Pearlman, Miss Eleanor F Platt, Mr C H Smith and Mr K H Zucker, QC.

Other appointments include:

Major-General D Boorman to be Commander British Forces Hongkong and Major-General The Brigade of Gurkhas in October.

Major-General J L Chapple to be Director of Military Operations, Ministry of Defence, in October.

Calls to the Bar

The following students of the Inns of Court have been called to the Bar in Hilary term:

LINCOLN'S INN
Miss Iona J Levine, LLB (Hons) London School of Economics.

INNER TEMPLE
P Doyle, MA, Balliol Coll, Oxford; S C Carson, LLB, Univ of Wales, LLM, Univ Coll London; M J Crawford, LLB, Warwick Univ; N I J Dyer, BA St Cuthbert's Coll, Durham; G A Leboff, BA, City of London Poly; Sandra Dodd, BA, City of London Poly.

MIDDLE TEMPLE
D H Heycock, LLB, LSE, MPhil Queens Coll, Cambridge; P Domleh, LLB, London Univ; V S Olliver, BA (Hons) North Staffs Poly; Miss Geraldine F Graham, BA, St Anne's Coll, Oxford; Miss Gillian Beckwith, dip for magistrates' court clerks, Manchester Poly; M J Holt, BA (Hons), Manchester Poly; J K B Deale, BA, Trinity Coll, Dublin, barrister of Ireland; T M Morgan, BA, Univ Coll Dublin, BCL Nat Univ of Ireland, barrister of Ireland; E G Stewart, BA, Univ Coll, Dublin, barrister of Ireland; P P O'Higgins, BA, Univ Coll, Dublin, barrister of Ireland; J P Healy, of Nat Univ of Ireland and of Univ Coll, Cork, barrister of Ireland; M J McMahon, BCL, Univ Coll, Dublin, barrister of Ireland; J P Elkinson, BA and LLB of Trinity Coll, Dublin, barrister of Ireland; A Murphy, of Univ Coll, Cork, barrister of Ireland; U MacGrualrc, BA, Higher Dip in Ed and BL, Univ Coll, Cork, barrister of Ireland; J A Duggan, BCL, Univ Coll, Cork, barrister of Ireland; Mrs Miriam B O'Riordan-Hogan, BCL, Univ Coll, Cork, barrister of Ireland; J W Walshe, BCL, Univ Coll, Dublin, barrister of Ireland; E Gleeson, BA, MA, Univ Coll, Cork, barrister of Ireland; H Kenny, BCL, Nat Univ of Ireland, barrister of Ireland.

GRAY'S INN
J S Pearce; J D C Turner, BA, Corpus Christi Coll Cambridge; Lynda K Rose, BA, Exeter Univ; S N Barzey, LLB, London Univ; S Ebrahim, LLB, North London Poly; Aliya S Khan, BA, Girton Coll, Cambridge; C A M Katkowski, BA LLB, Fitzwilliam Coll, Cambridge; M P Mendy, LLB, School of African Studies London; Isabella L Forshall, BA, Newnham Coll, Cambridge; Sara P Fung, BA, North-East London Poly; P J F Higham, BA, MA, St John's Coll, Cambridge.

Sherborne School for Girls

The following scholarship awards have been made:
First scholarship: Louise Noel (The Hampshire School, SW7); second scholarships: Jemima Laing (St Barnabas and St Philip's Primary School, W8) and Theresa Roberts (Daneshill, Basingstoke); third scholarships: Gillian Evans (Dulwich College Preparatory School, Cranbrook) and Lucy Maunsell (The Manor School, Great Durnford); exhibitions: Helen Ellwood (St Christopher's, Burnham-on-Sea) and Fiona Macintosh (Sherborne School for Girls).

The following music awards have been made:
First scholarship: Anna Thomas (Convent of the Sacred Heart Woldingham); second scholarship: Emma Bonner-Morgan (Knighton House, Blandford); exhibition: Lucie Agnew (Castle Court, Corfe Mullen).

25 years ago

From The Times of Friday, February 8, 1957

Bank rate was yesterday lowered from 5½ per cent to 5 per cent. This is the first change in the rate since it was raised by a full one per cent on February 16 last year. Mr Thorneycroft, Chancellor of the Exchequer, gave a warning in the House of Commons that the reduction announced earlier by the Bank of England was not a signal to bankers to relax credit.

OBITUARY

SIR CEDRIC MORRIS

Painter and horticulturalist

Sir Cedric Lockwood Morris, Bt, who died on February 8, at the age of 92 was a painter and horticulturalist and had been Principal of the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing, Hadleigh. In 1947 he succeeded his father, Sir George Lockwood Morris of Clasemont, Glamorganshire as 9th Baronet.

Morris was a painter perhaps best known, at least in metropolitan circles, during the between-wars period. His work might be described in general terms as post-impressionist in its particular emphasis on shape and expressiveness of colour, though this did not imply an interest in manner at the expense of matter. He gained a considerable following as a painter of birds and was able to combine with his studies of bird life the attraction of an effective contemporary style.

After service in the First World War — he served in the ranks in 1914 and 1915 — he shared in the euphoria of the 1920s and the parties at his studio in Great Ormond Street are still remembered as festive gatherings of the bohemian society of the period at which he was a delighted and charming host. His leaning, nevertheless, was towards country life and successful exhibitions were a prelude to his departure to Suffolk and the start of his East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing at Hadleigh. Unconventional in character, the enterprise was viewed somewhat askance by such conservative East Anglians of Art as Sir Alfred Munnings, but in the course of time became an established institution.

Cedric Morris had another character too: that of a knowledgeable, successful and most generous gardener. Even in his Paris Days he would collect plants on his expeditions and bring them back to grow in his studio. In his garden at Benton End, near Hadleigh, he accomplished what to less fortunate gardeners seemed near-miracles in keeping and increasing plants that are generally very difficult to grow in our climate. Bulbs were one of his specialities, and many of his rare iris, crocus, and colchicum species he had collected himself. But it was a real garden, not a specialist's, one in which all sorts of odd and beautiful things had been gradually brought together, observed, and thoroughly enjoyed.

Even in old age he still contrived to do everything himself but mow the grass: unhurried, effective, taking time off now and then to sun himself among the bushes in the hottest corner like a lithe, elderly, contented cat — but a cat that placidly smoked a pipe — smiled readily, and regarded life with a good deal of tolerant amusement.

He had exhibited in Venice, Chicago, Brussels, New York, Paris and London over the years and there were retrospective exhibitions at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, in 1968 and at the New Grafton Gallery, London, in 1975.

He was unmarried.

DR TADEUSZ BIELECKI

A correspondent writes:

Dr Tadeusz Bielecki, a leading Polish politician in exile, died on February 5 at the age of 81.

Bielecki studied Polish philology and literature at the Jagiellon University in Krakow gaining his philosophy doctorate there. Later he moved to Warsaw University where he received a diploma in jurisprudence.

During his student days he took an active part in political activities joining the Polish National Democratic Party. It was at that time that he met Roman Dmowski who led the Polish group of parliamentarians in the Russian Duma in Petrograd during the First World War. Dmowski subsequently headed the National Committee of Poland in Paris and later the Polish Delegation at the Peace Conference in Versailles. After his return to Poland Dmowski became the political mentor and guide to the post-war generation and invited Bielecki to become his political secretary.

Bielecki was elected member of the Sejm (1930-1935) leaving parliament only when the National Democrats, together with other opposition parties, boycotted the elections as a protest against the electoral law imposed by the government of the day. From that point he devoted his time to the Party and to writing. Barely thee months before the outbreak of war he was elected its leader at the age of 38.

After taking part in the short September campaign in defence of Poland he crossed the Hungarian frontier and arrived in Paris to join the semi-parliamentary National Council in the Sikorski war government. Following the collapse of France he spent a few months in unoccupied France and Portugal from where he came to London in 1941.

At the time of the German-Russian war the National Democrats left the Sikorski Government in protest against some aspects of the Sikorski-Maisky agreement, concerning the Polish eastern frontiers. When, following the Teheran agreement, Mr Mikolajczyk resigned the premiership, the National Democrats led by Bielecki were instrumental in the formation of a new government which later became known as the anti-Yalta Government. On July 5, 1945 recognition of this Government was withdrawn by the Allies, but it continued its activities acknowledged by the vast majority of Poles in this country and all over the world.

It was around this centre that all Polish activities in exile have been gradually built up over the last 36 years. Dr Bielecki played a leading role in this together with such well known personalities as the late generals W. Anders and K. Sosnkowski as well as the late prime ministers in exile T. Arciszewski and T. Bor-Komorowski.

Bielecki was elected president of the semi-parliamentary Polish Council of National Unity (1954-1972). In 1968 he gave up the leadership of the National Democratic Party, being made honorary life chairman.

Bielecki cultivated many friendships with British, American and French politicians, among the latter the late General de Gaulle, whom he first met in London.

PROF WALTER SCHAEFER

Professor Walter Erich Schaefer, author, theatrical director, and Generalintendant from 1949 to 1972 of the Wuerttemberg State Theatres, has died in Stuttgart at the age of 80.

He raised the theatres to a peak of international eminence probably unreached by any other theatrical complex, embracing opera, ballet and drama, in his country.

During his time in Stuttgart he invited first Nicholas Beriozoff (1957) and then John Cranko (1960) to run the ballet company that was, under Cranko, to fill a unique position in the dance world of Germany, if not in the world.

In 1972 he was elected an honorary member of the Stuttgart theatres and honorary president of the full-time residential Cranko Ballet School (formed in 1971), the only one of its kind in the land.

Born in Memmingen on March 13, 1901, Professor Schaefer took his degree of DPhil at Tübingen in 1926 and joined the Stuttgart Land Theatre in 1928. He was Dramaturg at the Stuttgart (1929-33) and Mannheim (1934-38) State Theatres, and Head Dramaturg and director in Kassel (1938-48), posts he held despite Nazi objections to his humanist beliefs, and in Augsburg (1948-49).

His first short story appeared in1926, his first radio play (*Malmgren*) in 1926, and his first play (*Judge Feuerbach*, a Kleist prizewinning drama). in 1930. His best known radio play was *The Four Seconds of Mahatma Gandhi* (1949). He wrote several books of theatrical and personal memoirs, essays, and biographies, eg. of the Stuttgart Opera and John Cranko.

Schaefer was a giant among theatrical managers, a kindly and understanding personality, a discoverer of talent, a champion of free expression, and a pioneer of new drama and music-theatre works. Orff was virtually his house-composer. Peter Palitzsch answered his call when work at Brecht's theatre in east Berlin was no longer possible, and his productions of Shakespeare, and modern playrights, such as Hochhuth, Kipphardt and Weiss became landmarks in modern German theatre, thanks to Schaefer's encouragement. He had Felsenstein, too, to visit Stuttgart to stage operas for him, so lightening the burden that his friend had to carry at the Komische Oper in east Berlin. In 1962/63 he joined hands with von Karajan in the running of the Vienna State Opera.

Mr Mohan Lal Sukhadia, a prominent Congress member of the Indian parliament who died on February 2 at the age of 66 was from 1964 to 1971 chief minister of the state of Rajasthan, and was credited with the development and modenisation of its economy in recent years. He was also a former governor of the states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Lieutenant-Colonel Humphrey James Boyle, OBE, who had been a Justice of the Peace and a Deputy Lieutenant for the West Riding of Yorkshire, died on February 6 at the age of 75.

Focus on ZIMBABWE

Despite constitutional barriers and far from overwhelming support for his ZANU-PF party at the independence elections in 1980 (see chart), the Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe maintains that one-party rule is only a matter of timing. **Michael Hornsby** assesses his efforts to win over all sections of the population and, in a second article, his schizophrenic relationship with South Africa.

The reopening of the parliamentary assembly in Salisbury last month after the Christmas break was a reassuringly familiar spectacle. The green leather benches, white-wigged speaker and ritual exchanges of insults between MPs all suggested that the Westminster model bequeathed by the Lancaster House agreement to black-ruled Zimbabwe was alive and well. But the trappings were deceptive. For Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwean Prime Minister, has set course for something much closer to the black African convention of a one-party republic in what has been officially named "the year of transformation".

So far as Mr Mugabe and his Zanu-PF party are concerned, as he explained in an interview in his Salisbury office, the goal is not in dispute. It is simply a question of when it can be achieved. The "when" is, of course, all important, not least because of the restraints built into the Lancaster House constitution, and the obvious danger of trying to push ahead without the full support of the country's other major political force, Mr Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front (PF), formerly Zapu.

After dropping the subject for some months, Mr Mugabe revived the one-party state issue during a populist "meet-the-people" tour of rural areas last month in terms that sent tremors through Western embassies in Salisbury, and drew an angry response from Mr Nkomo who evidently suspected an attempt to hustle him into a merger of his party with Mr Mugabe's.

In private conversation, Mr Mugabe uses much more moderate language. There is, he insists, no question of enforcing a one-party state, which must come about by the "democratic will of the people" (a referendum is mentioned) but he is convinced that Zimbabwe, at its present stage of reconstruction and development cannot afford the luxury of multi-party squabbling, and that political differences should be worked out "under the umbrella" of a single political structure. This is a familiar argument in Africa.

It is obviously of concern to Mr Mugabe that, despite winning 57 of the 80 common roll seats at the independence elections, he does not have a truly national base, Zanu's support having been built essentially on a Shona-speaking constituency in the north and east. The Shona group accounts for some 80 per cent of the population, but has a history of clan rivalry and political fragmentation, whereas the 20 per cent of the population in the south and west who are Ndebele speakers, and who form the base of Mr Nkomo's support, have always been much more united.

The attractions for Mr Mugabe of bringing Mr Nkomo into the fold are thus evident. Mr Nkomo himself is in a more difficult position. If he continues to play the game of conventional party politics, he appears to be condemned to be a permanent minority (unless he can extend his support to dissident Shona elements), but if he accepts the offer of union with Zanu he would be in danger of being submerged and losing even the base that he has. Better, he may calculate, to stay in coalition (albeit in a non-job as minister without portfolio), retain a separate political identity, and hope to improve his position at the next elections in 1985.

There is a long history of distrust between Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo dating back to the early years of the nationalist movement, and Mr Nkomo views with deep suspicion the formation of the Fifth Army Brigade, a body of 5,000 men drawn almost exclusively from the ranks of former Zanla guerrillas loyal to Mr Mugabe.

On the face of it, the constitutional hurdle in the way of a one-party state looks pretty insurmountable for the time being. The right of political association is one of the entrenched clauses of the Lancaster House settlement, and for 10 years can only be amended by a unanimous vote of the 100 MPs in the Assembly. The 20 MPs of the Republican (formerly Rhodesian) Front party of Mr Ian Smith would obviously block any change, even if Mr Nkomo's PF, which holds 20 of the common roll seats, and Bishop Muzorewa's UANC, which holds three, did not.

The whites are guaranteed 20 seats only until 1987. After that it might be easier to muster near-unanimity for the one-party state idea provided Mr Nkomo could be brought round, but will the hotheads in the Zanu-PF central committee wait that long?

Any attempt to ride roughshod over the entrenched clauses of the Lancaster House constitution would obviously alarm Zimbabwe's friends in the West, who stumped up some £1,000m in aid over three years at the Zimbabwe conference on reconstruction and development (Zimcord) early last year, and frighten off private foreign investment, which has been very slow to arrive. It would also add to the nervousness of local whites whose rate of exodus went up sharply last year.

In fairness, it should be said that the idea of a one-party state is accepted much more readily by whites inside the country than foreign opinion without. Many white businessmen and farmers see positive merit in it if it produces greater stability.

The welding together of the former 30,000 Zanla (Mugabe) and 20,000 Zipra (Nkomo) guerrillas into a new army of 60,000 men, which also includes the 15,000-strong former Rhodesian army, has been a remarkable achievement.

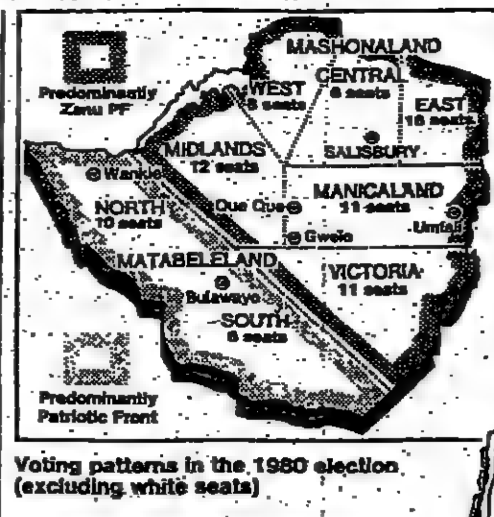
The last serious clash occurred a year ago in Bulawayo when fighting broke out between three Zipra and Zanla battalions after an incident in a beer-hall, and was only quelled by the intervention of old Rhodesian Army units and the White-piloted air force. More than 300 guerrillas and civilians may have been killed.

That blood-letting seems to have srved as a salutary lesson to all concerned, particularly the Zipra forces which came off worst (though the discovery last weekend of large illegal arms caches on Zipra-owned farms suggests that some at least of Mr Nkomo's men are still hoping to even the score). The main problem now is reducing the army to a more manageable and less costly size of about 40,000 men so as to release more funds for pressing social reforms.

Under pressure to satisfy the expectations aroused by independence. Mr Mugabe's Government has pressed ahead with egalitarian social reforms such as free primary schooling and free medical care for the lower paid.

There is a lack of certainty about the Government's intentions on public ownership. So far the Government has limited itself to buying out the previous South African majority holding in the country's newspapers, to taking over one of the country's three banks, and to acquiring a 42 per cent share in the country's biggest pharmaceutical company. However, a Bill now before Parliament would also give the Government control of the marketing of minerals,

continued on page II



Voting patterns in the 1980 election (excluding white seats)

The balance of power

Both Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo, leaders of ZANU-PF and the Patriotic Front respectively, regularly denounce tribalism and assert that observers see too much in the divide between the Shona and Matabele peoples. With ZANU-PF dominant in the east and the Patriotic Front supreme in the west, it is nevertheless still a potent force in national politics. Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council became the major party of the Zimbabwe Rhodesia administration, drawing on the same regional support which subsequently went to Mr Mugabe.

The 20 white members of the House of Assembly, entrenched for seven years from independence under the constitution, were elected by the white-roll constituencies in force before independence. The remaining 80 common roll seats were fought under a party list system in which voters in a large electoral region indicated a choice of political party.



ROBERT MUGABE
Prime Minister and leader of ZANU-PF
57 seats
(62.9 per cent of votes)

JOSHUA NKOMO
Leader of the Patriotic Front
20 seats
(24.1 per cent)

BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA
Former Prime Minister of Zimbabwe Rhodesia and leader of the United African Council
3 seats
(8.2 per cent)

IAN SMITH
Former Prime Minister of Rhodesia and leader of the Republican (formerly Rhodesian) Front; all 20 seats on white voters' roll
(includes Asians and mixed races)

Link with trading partner

Zimbabwe's foreign policy is dominated by its schizophrenic relationship with South Africa, the looming, and as seen from Salisbury, threatening presence south of the Limpopo which Mr Mugabe and his government, for all their oft-proclaimed abhorrence of apartheid, cannot do without for solid commercial and economic reasons.

South Africa is by far and away Zimbabwe's biggest trading partner, taking 18 per cent of its exports (41 per cent of manufactured goods) and supplying 32 per cent of its imports. It is position of dominance, strongly reinforced during the period of UDI, when other trade avenues were closed off or restricted. South African investment, particularly in mining, is of critical importance.

Zimbabwe is also crucially dependent on South Africa's road and rail system and ports, through which pass some 75 to 80 per cent of its imports and exports, as well as nearly all its oil requirements (giving rise to accusations last year that Pretoria was to blame for shortages of diesel and petrol). Awareness of their economic vulnerability has not deterred Zimbabwe's leaders from castigating at every turn the policies of the "apartheid racist regime", The approved formula which Zimbabwean television newsreaders are now instructed to use in any reference to South Africa.

It is axiomatic in Salisbury that Pretoria cannot tolerate on its northern border a stable, prosperous and above all multi-racial African state, and that it is, therefore, doing everything it can to "destabilize" the economies of Zimbabwe and its neighbours.

Yet Mr Mugabe is clear-eyed enough to see that there is no alternative to practical coexistence. Spurning diplomatic and political relations, he has said that he wants economic and trade links to be maintained, and has offered assurances that Zimbabwe will not be used as a base for guerrilla attacks against South Africa.

For its part, Pretoria has still not fully recovered from the shock of Mr Mugabe's emergence, about which the South Africans miscalculated more disastrously than most, and there is pressure from Mr Botha's hardliners to use the economic weapon to punish Zimbabwe for its verbal impertinence.

A test of Pretoria's attitude over the coming weeks will be the fate of an 18-year-old preferential trade agreement, due to expire at the end of March, under which some 24 per cent of Zimbabwe's total manufactured exports enjoy low-tariff, and in some cases duty-free, entry to South Africa.

South Africa abruptly announced the termination of the agreement in April of last year, but last month indicated willingness to reconsider.

Zimbabwe's chances of reducing trade links with South Africa and restoring the kind of commercial relationship with neighbouring black states which it had before UDI and sanctions (as a net exporter not only of food but also manufactured products, services and some capital goods) are hampered not least by the persistent balance of payments difficulties of these countries.

There are better hopes of reducing dependence on South Africa's transport system and thereby also opening up possibilities for other landlocked countries in the region whose lines of communication pass through Zimbabwe. The natural route for Zimbabwe's trade is through the Mozambique ports of Beira and Maputo.

Although the rail lines to Beira and Maputo were reopened in 1980, the two ports are still handling less than 20 per cent of Zimbabwe's trade. Beira needs heavy dredging, can only take ships of less than 25,000 tons and has no container facility. Maputo, though bigger and better equipped, is still hampered by the loss of Portuguese technicians, and a lack of telex and telephone links.

This helps to explain Zimbabwe's strong commitment to SADCC (Southern African Development Coordination Conference), which unites it with eight other black states in the region—Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia—in an endeavour to promote self-reliance and reduce dependence on South Africa.

Zimbabwe's potential as the industrial engine-room and granary of the SADCC grouping (it is the only member state with a food surplus) is sufficient cause for the deep dislike it arouses in Pretoria, which had hopes of luring its neighbours into a "constellation" of Southern African states intended, in part, to legitimize the Bantustan homelands.

Mr Mugabe's relations with President Samora Machel of Mozambique, forged during the years of guerrilla struggle when Zanu had its war base in Maputo, are close, and there has been discussion (and so far only that), of Zimbabwe's sending in its large and under-occupied army to help combat the insurgents, who are mainly made up of former black members of the Portuguese Armed Forces.

Salisbury and Maputo are both convinced, rightly or wrongly, that the Mozambique insurgents would not be as successful as they are at sabotaging rail and port facilities without the enthusiastic assistance of the South Africans, who predictably enough disclaim any interest in mischief-making of this kind.

One target of the insurgents, The Lonhro-owned oil pipeline from Beira to Umtali, has now been expensively renovated, and at full capacity should easily be able to handle all Zimbabwe's diesel and petrol requirements provided agreement can be reached on a fee for its use. Running for 30 miles of its length above ground, it remains, however, very vulnerable to attack.

The pipeline would remove one element of Zimbabwe's dependence on South Africa, for the rest, any over-hasty attempt to reduce trade and transport links on its giant neighbour would cause great economic disruption with ripple effects on foreign investment and the rate of exodus of white skills.

The boom in the first year of independence has subsided. Stephen Taylor takes stock of the economic realities today and then a more detailed look at the clouds over the mining industry and farming prospects.

Weak performance blights early bright economic prospects

The boisterous real growth of the economy in the first year of independence following the lifting of sanctions, officially recorded at 14 per cent, slowed down to 8 per cent in 1981 and gives every indication of dropping another two percentage points this year. The slowdown was due to a weaker performance by the mining sector compounded by foreign currency limitations, transport problems and shortages of skills.

A year ago inflation was low and there was a comfortable level of foreign currency reserves but since then inflation has doubled to 16 per cent and foreign reserves have dropped to the equivalent of about two months of imports.

These trends have been countered by drastically curbing foreign currency allocations for two quarters running, raising interest rates and discouraging consumer credit while at the same time Government has had increasing recourse to short-term foreign borrowing and has used credits to maintain import levels.

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe says that although it is too early to judge the effectiveness of these measures there are encouraging signs that the explosion in domestic demand is starting to abate and the acceleration in inflation has been curbed. However the new minimum wage for industrial workers alone, which came into effect on January 1, is expected to increase consumer demand by Z$200m.

The deterioration in the balance of payments is causing concern although one of the contributing factors, transport difficulties, is being relieved. By the end of last year there had been a substantial easing following the arrival of locomotives on loan from South Africa and improvement in maintenance which has brought repaired stock back into service.

At the same time government spending, 66 per cent of it recurrent, has substantially increased and the latest review by the Reserve Bank contains a warning to both Government and the private sector that strenuous efforts should be made to relate growth in expenditure to levels "more in line with the expansion of the economy's productive capacity".

Agriculture was a mainstay last year. The record maize crop and the highest prices ever paid in Zimbabwe for tobacco were principal features of a bumper harvest which saw the value of crops increase by 70 per cent on 1981.

Manufacturing output continued to grow although there were indications that it was levelling off. The most recent figures show that in the third quarter of last year production grew 8.4 per cent on 1980. The rate was higher in the first and second quarters and the overall figure for the first nine months showed an increase of 11.5 per cent. Transport equipment showed the greatest growth followed by clothing, footwear and chemicals.

Package brings in price freeze

Prospects for 1982 are affected by the foreign currency cutbacks — 10 per cent for the present quarter following the 15 per cent reduction for the final quarter last year — and the new minimum wage providing for an increase from Z$85 to Z$105 for industrial, commercial and mining workers. The wages are part of a package announced in December which constitute the Government's response to the Riddell commission of inquiry into incomes, prices and conditions of service.

The measures went further than the Riddell proposals which had envisaged a cautious rise over three years to 90 per cent of the poverty datum line. The government package also brought in a price freeze until March, prohibited retrenchment and placed a limit on the increase that could be paid to higher earners.

Many employees in commerce and industry were already being paid the new minimum and the effect will be felt less there than in the mining sector.

Mining experienced a miserable year, its difficulties stemming from low international market prices for minerals, and the total value of production for the first 10 months of 1981 was Z$319m, a fall of 7.4 per cent on 1980. Mining companies are further bothered by the Government's intention to set up a minerals marketing authority which will be responsible for selling all Zimbabwe's minerals apart from gold.

A boom in consumer demand last year which outstripped availability and higher domestic costs led to a sharp increase in inflation. By the end of the third quarter it stood at 17.4 per cent — 2 per cent up on the previous quarter — compared with 8 per cent over 1980. At the same time retail sales were 43 per cent up on 1980 levels.

There were implications for the Government's three-year economic development plan, *Growth with Equity*, published last year, which is based on an anticipated real growth rate of 8 per cent. The recent report of *The Economist* Intelligence Unit believes that that rate is unlikely to be maintained although between 6 and 6.5 per cent is possible, provided problems of skill shortages and transport are curbed.

A restricted growth of exports, resulting from those problems, set against high import levels (principally machinery, transport equipment, industrial raw materials and liquid fuels) saw a trade surplus of Z$109m for the first eight months of 1980 turned into a visible deficit of Z$49M for the same period last year. In spite of the various measures being taken to reduce the deficit the Reserve Bank sees little prospect of a return to a surplus before the international economy shows a meaningful recovery.

Meanwhile the deficit in government spending is being financed mainly by foreign borrowing. During the first quarter of the present financial year government spending amounted to Z$364.5m compared with Z$299.7m for the same period of the previous year. Budgeted expenditure for the present financial year is Z$2,006m of which 58.5 per cent will come from diverse taxation, 9.2 per cent from other revenue and 32.3 per cent from borrowing. Of the total spending 66 per cent will be for recurrent expenditure, 15 per cent for debt servicing and 19 per cent for capital investment.

South Africa is by far Zimbabwe's most important trading partner, buying more than a fifth of all the country's exports, excluding gold, and supplying more than a quarter of its imports, excluding oil. Pretoria's decision last year to scrap the preferential trade agreement which has existed between the two countries since UDI consequently carried ominous implications — for manufacturers of furniture, textiles, clothing and electronic goods in particular. It now seems that there is agreement in principle to renew the agreement but the terms are unlikely to be as favourable to Zimbabwe as in the past.

Britain is the second most important trading partner followed by West Germany, the United States and other EEC countries. However, the Government is keen to diversify its trade and a visit by the Prime Minister to three Balkan states last year is expected to lead to increasing trade with East Europe.

Concern over the longer strategy

One matter which remains unresolved and which continues to give rise to concern is the Government's long term strategy towards the private sector. The authorities have frequently stated that they do not seek to nationalize, only to participate in strategic industries, but three instances last year in which the Government was associated with takeovers did not reassure the anxious. In the first two, involving the press and Zimbank, South African interests were acquired for such strategic reasons. The third involved the takeover of a pharmaceutical company.

With further pressures around the corner the year ahead could be crucial in setting once and for all the Government's fundamental economic course.

AGRICULTURE

Down to earth with a bump

After a record season which exceeded the wildest hopes of both farmers and government, agriculture, on which 75 per cent of the population depend for their livelihood, is approaching the 1981-82 season with more modest expectation.

Last year's bumper harvest encountered considerable marketing and transport problems, but it underlined Zimbabwe as the leading agricultural exporter in black Africa and demonstrated vividly to the Government the value of an efficient commercial farming sector.

A perfect growing season saw tobacco again become the country's top foreign currency earner and produced the country's biggest-ever maize harvest. Sales of major crops up to September amounted to Z$495.8m, more than 70 per cent up on the previous year.

White farmers, who were the most enthusiastic supporters of the Smith Administration and bore the brunt of the guerrilla war, were riding on a wave of prosperity that few would have thought possible under majority rule.

Mr James Sinclair, president of the Commercial Farmers' Union, which represents 4,800 white and 200 black farmers, recently spelt out the reasons for the evaporation of last season's euphoria.

- Drought has affected some of the best land in the country as well as the so-called communal lands of black peasant farmers who contributed 10 per cent to total output last year. This season they are unlikely to produce more than a subsistence crop while overall production is expected to be reduced by 40 per cent.
- The increase in the minimum wage for farm workers from Z$30 to Z$50 will, says CFU, have a marked effect on the incentive to grow labour-intensive crops such as tobacco, cotton, tea and coffee — all important exports. There are other implications which are the subject of discussions between the CFU and the Government.
- A drastic reduction in the foreign currency allocations to buy farm equipment. The quota for tractors has been reduced from Z$1.65m for the last quarter to Z$313,000 and the allocation for large tractors and combines has been scrapped altogether.
- Concern over the latest projections on the land resettlement programme issued by the Government. The CFU says that if land areas cited in the document are adhered to, the Government will have to acquire more than 60 per cent of the land now owned by commercial farmers.
- This year's maize harvest is estimated at between one million and 1.3 million tonnes compared with 2.5 million tonnes last year. Prospects for tobacco are nowhere near as good this year, even though about 1,350 tobacco growers have planted 125,000 acres, according to Mr Bert Palmer, president of the Tobacco Growers Association. The Cotton Growers Association is also worried. In spite of last year's record revenue it says that farmers are disillusioned with the crop because of low prices.

Soya beans and wheat are expected to be about the same as last year. There will be substantial beef shortages because herds depleted by the war have still not been fully built up. The dairy industry is experiencing serious shortages of milk which have already resulted in some important products being withdrawn.

The CFU is lobbying strongly in the foreign currency and land issues and believes that changes can be achieved.

The most important negotiations in the agricultural calendar, the annual price-fixing talks between the CFU and the Government, began last month in a more than usually charged atmosphere following the 66 per cent wage increase.

The CFU refuses to disclose what increases are being sought but confirms that some commodities will have to go up by 15 per cent just to meet the higher wage bills.

If the negotiations are not successful, the farmers' side says, "The result could be loss of jobs and a loss in production of essential food and cash crops."

Squatting has been less of a problem than was anticipated last year, and most of the areas taken over are land which has been bought by the Government for resettlement but has not yet been utilized because of administration delays.

In one recent notable case, a white farmer who has been prevented by squatters from using his land won a court order to have them moved.

Nevertheless, as the agricultural sector looks to the future with a continued sense of optimism, the land issue seems likely to remain a cloud over long-term prospects.



An abundant maize crop, but how much longer will this white farmer own it? Land settlement remains one of the countries thorniest problems.

MINING

A period of distress

Although economists believe that Zimbabwe's diverse mining industry can look forward to sustained growth from next year until 1985, it is now, in the words of a senior official, "going through a period of distress" stemming from declining production and low prices for key minerals.

The statistics speak for the importance of the industry: more than 40 minerals are mined, producing more than 50 per cent of foreign exchange earnings. They include major deposits of gold, chrome and asbestos; indeed, Zimbabwe is the second largest chrome producer and has the largest high-grade deposits in the world.

Other important minerals are nickel, copper, coal, iron, silver and tin, and although most deposits of these are low grade they are generally contained within small areas, making the mining operation flexible and low in investment cost.

Metallurgists believe that detailed surveys would reveal further resources, and one recent estimate put the total mineral wealth of the country at more than Z$40,000m.

Against these impressive figures must be set a gloomy picture, largely based on world prices, which has carried over from 1981 and looks like extending well into the year. At the same time anxiety in the industry is high over the implications of the Minerals Marketing Bill which has been approved by Parliament.

The year of independence was a good one with the value of mineral production reaching Z$414m, a record for the eighteenth successive year. What that figure does not disclose, however, is the steady decline in production volume which by February last year was 22 per cent down on the peak in 1976.

The downward trend was particularly noticeable last year. By October, the last month for which figures are available, production was valued at only Z$319m and one informed estimate puts total 1981 production at Z$375m.

A key factor was the loss of skilled staff, a national problem but one which has had a particulaly deleterious effect on mining because, says Mr Roy Lander, president of the Chamber of Mines, "we mine a pretty low grade product and we must be efficient to be profitable."

Expanded training programmes are not expected to bring much relief this year, and costs will go up by more than 20 per cent. Interest rates have doubled and Mr Lander says the increase in the minimum wage from Z$85 a month to Z$105 will put up the mining wage bill to Z$200m for the year.

The Government's appreciation of the problem has prompted it to call a one-year moratorium on two changes in taxation budgeted last year — a reduction in the capital redemption allowance and abolition of the depletion allowance — which would have increased mining taxes considerably.

But if companies such as Anglo-American, Rio Tinto, Lonrho, Union Carbide and Turner and Newall are pleased with the Government's consideration of their difficulties, they remain deeply concerned over its decision to establish a state-run minerals marketing board with wide-ranging powers and responsibilities for selling all mineral output.

Mr Maurice Nyagumbo, the Minister of Mines, insists that the creation of the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe — which was approved by Parliament in January — is not a first step to nationalizing the industry but is rightful participation in the disposal of a strategic and non-renewable resource. The Government is also clearly concerned that there have been malpractices through transfer pricing and under-invoicing of sister companies outside the country.

In response, the Chamber of Mines says that no instances of malpractices have been cited and that the powers of the new board enable it to "take over the marketing function completely, to control the size of producers' stockpiles and therefore (their) rate of production, to take possession of producers' outputs long before payment (is) made, to negotiate binding contracts for the sale of minerals without incurring any legal liabilities or responsibilities and to hold on to ... the industry's revenue for periods of up to 30 days".

continued from page I

and there is repeated talk of extending public participation into other as yet undefined areas, and "returning wealth to the people".

Some of the rhetoric is plainly intended to appease Zimbabwe's land-hungry peasantry which is growing increasingly impatient at the slow pace of land redistribution. Some 50,000 squatters are reported to have taken the law into their own hands and set up homes on commercial farmland. Mainly along the eastern border with Mozambique, much of which was vacated during the war. This unquestionably, will be the central issue over the coming years.

Mr Mugabe knows that if he tries to move too fast in response to popular pressure he risks destroying the productivity of the white farming sector which has made Zimbabwe almost unique in Black Africa as a country which is able to feed itself and still have a comfortable surplus left over for export. It is one part of the tightrope he is walking as he tries to satisfy the legitimate demands of his people for a better life without destroying the economic efficiency and dynamism he inherited from the previous regime.

هكذا من الأصل

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FOCUS

Compiled by Alan Grainge

Businessmen's Brief

The Republic of Zimbabwe became a fully independent state within the Commonwealth on April 18, 1980. Parliamentary elections to the House of Assembly, with 100 seats divided between African and white members in the ratio of 80:20, resulted in an overall majority for Mr Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) party, Zanu (PF) — which draws its support principally from the majority Shona tribe — with 57 seats.

Mr Joshua Nkomo's mainly Ndebele party, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu), secured 20 seats and the United African National Congress (Uanc), led by the former premier, Bishop Muzorewa, the other three.

The 20 seats allocated to whites were all won by Mr Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front party, since renamed the Republican Front.

Mr Mugabe's administration has been moderate and neither oppressive of the white minority, as some had feared, nor marxist in style, as some preindependence indications of Zanu (PF) policy had appeared to threaten.

The government has given priority to the need to revive the economy and to repair the damage caused by the years of economic sanctions and of guerrilla warfare. These policies have received substantial financial support from the World Bank and some western countries.

The Economy

Towards the end of 1981 there were signs of a decline in the impressive economic growth established in the 18 months after independence. This was partly due to the pressure on foreign exchange reserves and the consequent decision in September to impose cuts in import allocations. Another factor was the serious lack of locomotives for freight transport. By mid-1981 only half the 220 required were in service, but the decision, in December, by the South African government to restore the 24 previously on loan and the expected delivery of another 60 from the USA promised to avert a major crisis.

In addition, the possibility also reported last month of retaining the preferential trading relations with South Africa, which it had been believed were to cease at the beginning of 1982, gives further grounds for an expectation of a return to a higher rate of growth in the economy this year.

Growth in the manufacturing sector continues to be inhibited by the chronic shortage of skilled labour, but agriculture, particularly the production of maize and tobacco, continued in 1981 the satisfactory growth of 1980.

While inflationary pressure remains high, and economists are forecasting a rate of about 15 per cent for 1982, the government has given clear indications of its readiness to adopt counter measures.

Now that some other uncertainties have also been removed there seem to be genuine possibilities of Zimbabwe returning in 1982 to the kind of economic growth rate achieved in the first year of independence.

Development Plans

At the Zimbabwe Conference on Reconstruction and Development (Zimcord) in March 1981 more than 70 delegations offered commitments to contribute a total of Z$1.28,000m in aid over a period of three years. The government has specified five areas in which the funds will be used: Land settlement and rural development; repair and reconstruction of war damage; resettlement of war refugees and war displaced people; training and rehabilitation of former combatants and technical cooperation.

To overcome the housing shortage the government has drawn up a Z$942m five-year plan. This will provide for the construction of 167,000 houses at a cost of Z$771.5m and a further Z$30m will be spent on providing about 100,000 houses with electricity.

The high increase in demand for industrial power will be met from two sources: electrical power will be provided by the construction of a Z$900m thermal power station at Wankie and fuel requirements by the expansion of ethanol production.

Population estimated: 7,500,000 Africans and 200,000 Europeans.

Main cities and towns

Salisbury (Harare) — population 627,000. The capital and commercial, industrial and communications centre of the country.

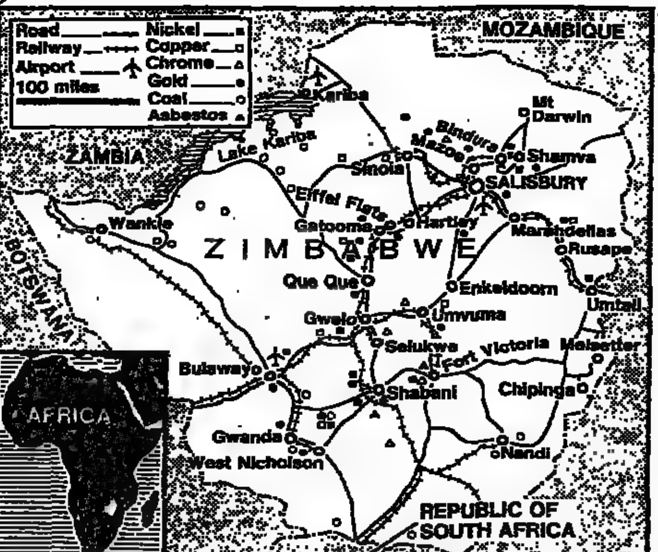
Bulawayo (363,000) A major centre of commerce and industry with good communications by rail, air and road with the rest of Zimbabwe. Heavy engineering concentration.

Umtali (63,000) Main town on the eastern border with road and rail links with the port of Beira. Principal industries are paper milling, food processing and vehicle assembly.

Gwelo (70,000) Situated in the Midlands. Centre of a rich mining area and of growing industrial importance.

Que Que (51,000) Location of the Risco steelworks which has attracted a number of ancillary and new industries.

Wankie (33,000) Situated in the west, has the only operatng coal fields in the country and is the site of a coal-fired power station now in the first phase of construction.



The Executive

Prime Minister and Defence: Mr Robert Mugabe
Deputy Prime Minister: Mr Simon Muzenda
Minister without Portfolio: Mr Joshua Nkomo
Foreign Affairs: Mr Witness Mangwenda
Manpower, Planning & Development: Mr Frederick Shava
Finance: Mr Enos Nkala
Justice & Constitutional Affairs: Mr Simbi Mubako
Home Affairs: Mr Richard Hove
Transport: Mr Josiah Chinamano
Industry & Energy: Mr Simba Makoni
Labour & Social Services: Mr Kumbirai Kangai
Youth, Sport & Recreation: Mr Ernest Kadungure
Local Government & Housing: Dr Eddison Zvobgo
Lands, Resettlement & Rural Development: Dr Sydney Sekeramayi
Community Development & World Affairs: Mrs Teurai Ropa Nhongo
Agriculture: Mr Dennis Norman
Natural Resources & Water Development: Mr Joseph Msika
Information & Tourism: Dr Nathan Shamuyarira
Education & Culture: Dr Dzingai Mutumbuka
Health: Dr Herbert Ushewokunze
Public Works: Mr Clement Muchachi
Mines: Mr Maurice Nyagumbo
Trade & Commerce: Vacant
Posts & Telecommunications: Vacant

Banks

Citibank
61 Samora Machel Avenue
Salisbury
Tel: 793064/793000

RAL Merchant Bank
RAL House
67 Samora Machel Avenue
Salisbury
Tel: 703071

Merchant Bank of Central Africa
Livingstone House
Samora Machel Avenue
Salisbury
Tel: 7033211

Zimbabwe Banking Corporation,
Zimbank House
Speke Avenue
Salisbury
Tel: 700631

Grindlays Bank
1st Floor
Ottoman House
Samora Machel Avenue
Salisbury
Tel: 706351

Bank of Credit and Commerce Zimbabwe
60 Union Avenue
Union House
Salisbury
Tel: 794624

Barclays Bank International
Barclay House
Stanley Avenue/First Street
Salisbury
Tel: 706301
100 Abercorn Street
Bulawayo
Tel: 71761

The Standard Bank
Cnr Manica Road/Orr Street
Salisbury
Tel: 791771
Cnr 8th Avenue/Fife Street
Bulawayo
Tel: 63861

Travel information

Entry regulations
All visitors require passports but nationals of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Commonwealth countries and the Irish Republic do not need visas. Visitors from the United Kingdom intending to stay for less than six months enter Zimbabwe with min-imum formalities. Only simple immigration forms need to be completed: no customs forms. But visitors may be asked to prove that their financial resources are sufficient for their stay and to produce a return ticket if arriving by air.

Health certificates
Smallpox certificates are not required; yellow fever certificates are required from visitors arriving from infected areas. Vaccination against cholera is recommended for those visiting rural areas.

Currency
The unit issued by the Reserve Bank is the Zimbabwe dollar divided into 100 cents. The current rate of exchange is approximately:
1Z$ = UK£ 0.75
1Z$ = US$ 1.37

Hotels

Salisbury:
Meikles Hotel
Stanley Avenue
Tel: 707721

Monomatapa Hotel
54 Park Lane
Tel:704501

Jameson Hotel
Samora Machel Avenue
Tel: 794641

Ambassador Hotel
Union Avenue
Tel:708121

Park Lane
Samora Machel Avenue East
Highlands

Bulawayo:
Holiday Inn
Ascot Centre
Tel: 72464

Bulawayo Sun Hotel
19th Avenue/Wilson Street
Tel:60101

Grey's Inn
73 Grey Street
Tel: 60121

Hotel Cecil
Fife Street/Third Avenue
Tel:60295

Bookshelf

Zimbabwe: A 100 page report on commercial, economic and political issues. Price £150. Published by Atlantis Consulting Services Ltd, 101-103 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6BH.
The Europa Yearbook. Europa Publications Ltd, 18 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3JN. The 1980 edition costs £30 and contains information on Zimbabwe on pages 1816-1835.
Industry & Commerce of Zimbabwe Rhodesia 1979. Thom's Commercial Publications (Pvt) Ltd, PO Box BW 451, Borrowdale, Salisbury.
Economic Survey of Zimbabwe. Annually. Ministry of Finance, Salisbury.
Monthly Digest of Statistics. Central Statistical Office, Salisbury.

Communications

Air: Air Zimbabwe's internal network covers most of the main business and holiday centres daily. Between Salisbury and Bulawayo there are three flights daily each way.
Rail: The National Railways of Zimbabwe links the main centres and connects with the rail systems of South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia.
Road: There are about 4,100km of inter-city and inter-territorial roads of full width macadam surface.

Trade

Imports: Apart from petroleum and allied the principal commodity groups are machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, steel plates and sheets, and textile piecegoods. There is little provision in the import licensing system for consumer goods.
Exports: The principal commodities are gold, asbestos, copper, nickel, tin, ferro-alloys, ingots and billets, bar and rod sections and wire. Other exports of growing importance are non-electrical machinery and parts, radio and television sets and components, textile yarns and fabrics, leather goods, clothing and accessories, footwear, wooden products, furniture, paper manufactures, travel goods, sanitary and light fittings and jewellery.

Diplomatic missions

London
High Commissioner: HE Mr R. T. Zwinoira
Deputy High Commissioner: Mr Phibbon John Shoniwa
Address: High Commission for the Republic of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe House, 429 Strand, London WC2R OSA
Telephone: 01-836 7755

Zimbabwe
High Commissioner: R. A. C. Byatt CMG
Counsellor (Commercial/Economic): J. N. Elam
Address: The British High Commission, 7th Floor, Stanley House, Stanley Avenue, Salisbury.
Telex: 4607 a/b RH
Telephone: Salisbury 793781

Coming to terms with independence is proving a hard and tortuous process. **Michael Hornsby** investigates reactions among the white population and **Gillian Gunn** assesses the price that former guerrillas are having to pay in adjusting to a life without war

Staying on under black rule

Mr Alfred Knottenbelt, a retired white schoolmaster, is one of those who are "staying on". He fully intends, he says, "to die in Zimbabwe, though not just yet". Few of his white compatriots are ready to make that commitment, even if most of them, much as they grumble and groan, still seem prepared to give life, if not death, a go under black rule.

As a former headmaster of Fletcher High School, Ingwelo, for a time one of only two schools in the country offering blacks a sixth-form education, Mr Knottenbelt knows the new rulers as few whites do. Many of them passed through his hands as pupils, and he reminisces about his former charges with genuine pride and affection.

Many of his fellow whites, he believes, "simply cannot come to terms with the fact that for years they have been living in absolute clover at the expense of the great mass of the people, and that a fairer sharing of the spoils is bound to mean some sacrifices by them".

The truth of that judgment, it would seem, is the steady though not yet disastrous, drain of whites leaving the country, and the seeping-away of valuable managerial, technical and artisan skills that Zimbabwe can ill afford to lose. It is a haemorrhage that, unless staunched, could seriously impede economic recovery and growth. It has already forced the Government to go back on a pledge not to employ expatriate skills.

As the table accompanying this article shows, the flow is not all one way (indeed Zimbabwe has actually gained more doctors and surgeons than it has lost since independence.) But the drain is serious given that blacks trained for jobs previously done by whites will not be emerging in any numbers for several years.

The loss of engineering and mechanical skills is particularly worrying. A shortage of white technical staff is now generally admitted to have contributed at least as much as the withdrawal of locomotives on loan from South Africa to the railways' inability to cope with the country's bumper maize crop last year.

After reaching a peak of 275,000 in 1975, the white population fell steadily to reach about 225,000 (against 7 million blacks) by the signing of the Lancaster House agreement at the end of 1979. On official figures, it is now down to below 190,000 and still falling, as whites go "down south" — to South Africa.

The average outflow in the first 11 months of last year was about 1,700, higher than at any time during the war and sharply up on 1980, despite a limit of about £750 on the foreign currency emigrants can take out of the country and a rule that any household goods exported must be at least four years old.

In the face of such disincentives to leave, it is puzzling to know what has happened to cause those whites who initially opted to stay to change their minds. Possibly the first overreaction to discovering Mr Mugabe was not the terrorist ogre he had been painted propelled many into hoping that there would be no changes at all.

Not that, on the surface, *daily life has changed all that* much for most whites. It is still the same familiar round of sun, sport and work they have always known. Television and the newspapers may be full of the doings of "Comrade Mugabe", and liberally sprinkled with references to "racist" South Africa, but in a sense one lot of government propaganda has merely replaced another.

Businessmen fuss about the direction of the economy, the inflationary effects of the latest round of minimum wage rises, the freeze on upper-bracket salaries and new regulations which prohibit the dismissal of employees without written permission from a government minister. But few of them are yet ready to give up.

As for the 5,000 white farmers, they are positively thriving after a record crop last year. To be sure, there is grumbling about squatters, and concern about the future pace and scope of land redistribution, which has scarcely touched them yet. But Mr Jim Sinclair, the president of the predominantly white Commercial Farmers' Union, is able to report 200 more farmers on his books now than at Independence.

Many farming families go back several generations, whereas most whites were not born in Zimbabwe, large numbers of them arriving only after the Second World War, and have put down only shallow roots. As the part of the civilian population most exposed to threat to life and limb during the guerrilla war, farmers and their families also appreciate the benefits of peace more keenly.

Most discontent is to be found in the ranks of the civil service which is steadily being "Africanized". Some 60 per cent white before independence, it is now more than 60 per cent black. At the top level, from heads of department up to permanent secretaries, where only one black face was formerly to be seen, the balance is now nearly half and half.

Many whites, as they have seen their career prospects diminish and blacks they consider less qualified promoted above them, have accepted early retirement, moved to the private sector or emigrated.

The 3,000 whites in the old Rhodesian army of less than 15,000 men have dwindled to no more than 1,000 in the new Zimbabwean force of 60,000, composed mainly of former Zanla and Zipra guerrillas. But there are still about 300 white officers, and when Lieut-General Peter Walls was sacked last July after falling out with the Prime Minister, another white, Major-General Sandy Maclean, was appointed to succeed him as commander of combined operations.

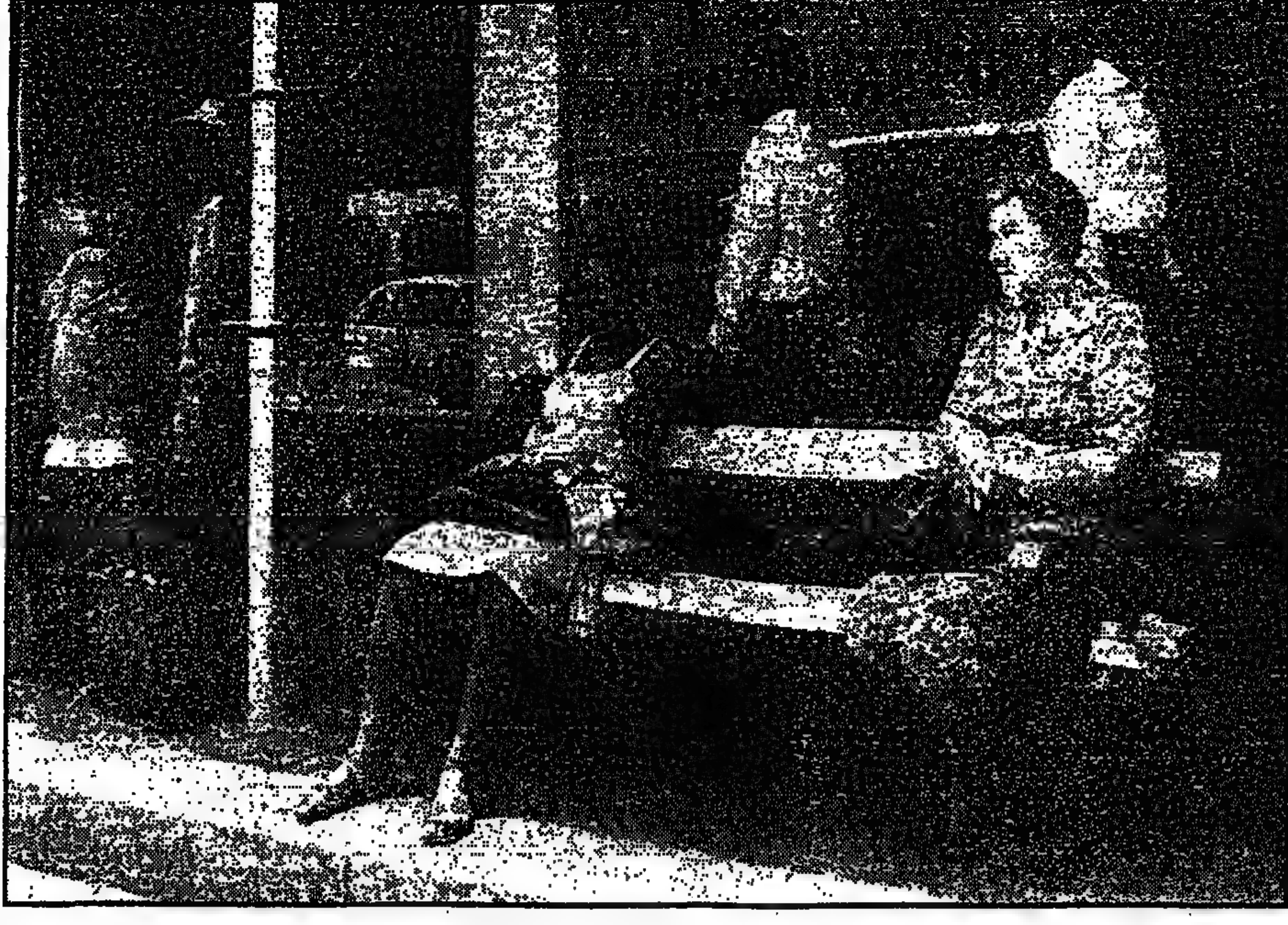
Free primary schooling and medical care and the racial integration of schools and hospitals have inevitably meant some lowering of standards previously enjoyed by whites. The ratio of teachers to pupils has worsened (the school population having jumped from 800,000 to more than 1,800,000), and there is worry about an "Africanized" syllabus.

Wealthy whites, however, can still send their children to expensive private schools with pukka-sounding British names like St George's, Plumtree, Arundel and Peterhouse.

Politically, most whites now seem resigned to their political irrelevance. Mr Ian Smith and his 20 Republican (formerly Rhodesian Front) MPs in their "reserved" seats (safe only until 1987) no longer inspire much enthusiasm. But the breakaway Democratic Party (DP) of Mr Andre Holland, a white farmer who advocates cooperation with the Government, inspires even less, and has twice been heavily defeated by the RF in low-poll by-elections.

Government-white relations have not been improved by the detention without trial of 14 whites, among them Mr Wally Stuttaford, the elderly RF MP for Bulawayo South, who is alleged to have been plotting to overthrow the Govenment with malcontents among Mr Joshua Nkomo's former guerrillas. No concrete charges have yet been laid against Mr Stuttaford, whose claims to have been tortured by his captors have been supported by medical evidence.

The escape from prison to South Africa with the aid of a white policeman, of an army bomb disposal expert arrested on suspicion of spying for Pretoria has also rekindled doubts about the loyalty of whites to Zimbabwe. A measure of the Government's sensitivity was the deportation of a 21-year-old white garage mechanic accused of drawing beards and horns on posters of Mr Mugabe and President Canaan Banana.



Street scene in Zimbabwe: equal now, but miles apart.

January 1, 1980 to November 30, 1981

Skill	Emigrants	Immigrants	Net loss
Engineers	413	322	91
Engineering Technicians	158	53	105
Mechanical Engineers	800	332	468
Accountants and Auditors	297	146	151
Administrative and Managerial	934	482	452
Clerical	3,157	804	2,353
Miners and Quarrymen	128	24	104
Aircraft Workers	94	23	71
Motor Mechanics	370	123	247
Electricians	373	234	139
Construction Workers	185	72	113
Print Workers	101	51	50
Nurses and Midwives	487	169	318
Production Supervisors, General Foremen	230	83	147
Teachers	481	324	157
Draughtsmen	82	49	33

Source: Monthly Migration and Tourist Statistics for November, 1981, Central Statistical Office, Salisbury. Those leaving are presumed to be whites.

No market for guerrilla skills

Any visitor to Zimbabwe eventually notices them; the young black amputees gliding along Salisbury's sidewalks in wheelchairs, the crutches that dot Mugabe's political rallies. They represent the price Zimbabwe paid for independence: 15,000 disabled ex-guerrillas.

Zimbabwe's Department of Social Services has launched an ambitious programme to help such war victims, but the task is massive. Jairus Mutambikwa, Director of Social Services, explains: "Many who lost limbs in the bush went for months without medical care and the problem of physical repair is huge. The average age is 23, and typically they joined the guerrillas in their early teens. Thus they have few skills and finding a job can be very difficult."

The disabled ex-guerrillas also face emotional and social problems. "Some come well says Mr Mutambikwa. They way have lost a limb, but they feel proud of their contribution. Others see former schoolmates who didn't fight enjoying good jobs and they despair. They say: "I sacrificed and he's rewarded."

Both men and women ex-guerrillas furthermore have difficulty relating to the opposite sex. They were caught up in the war at or just before puberty and have no spouse to return to. Disabled men report problems finding wives, but female ex-guerrillas appear to face even greater hurdles. "They often acquired assertive personalities in the war," says Mrs Rudo Nyamuswa, whose privately funded Tariro Centre half-way house has helped mentally disturbed ex-guerrillas adjust to civilian life. "Many Zimbabwe men find this unattractive."

And both men and women sometimes have difficulty coping with elementary social tasks. "Because of their background they have no experience in operating as individuals in an urban society", said rehabilitation controller Michael Davies recently in an interview with a London paper. "During the war decisions were made for them and they have no idea how to handle things like money."

To help the disabled ex-guerrillas the Government is building a National Rehabilitation Centre at Ruwa, 40km outside Salisbury. When completed in 1983 it will care for 400 patients at a time. Already the Ruwa Centre and clinics in Umtali and Beatrice are treating 700 ex-guerrillas.

Medical repair of the most gruesome cases preoccupied the authorities initially, but now the programme is also providing general rehabilitation.

Vocational training is particularly emphasized. Guerrilla skills no longer find a market in peacetime Zimbabwe, and many ex-combatants have little else to offer. So far the programme has placed 200 men in mainly industrial jobs. A meeting was held with businessmen recently to appeal for extra consideration for disabled ex-guerrillas, and met with an excellent response.

But women ex-guerrillas have more problems than their male counterparts when it comes to job hunting. "There are limited fields in which they can work", says Mr. Mutambikwa. "Generally they are given only secretarial training." The women then have to compete with experienced secretaries, often unsuccessfully.

In addition to the vocational training ex-combatants are also given help in acquiring civilian-style social skills. Social workers assist in solving the day-to-day problems guerrillas did not have to deal with.

But one area has received little official attention — that of emotional maladjustment. "The authorities are oriented towards physical rehabilitation with few resources devoted to psychological problems", says Mrs. Nyamuswa.

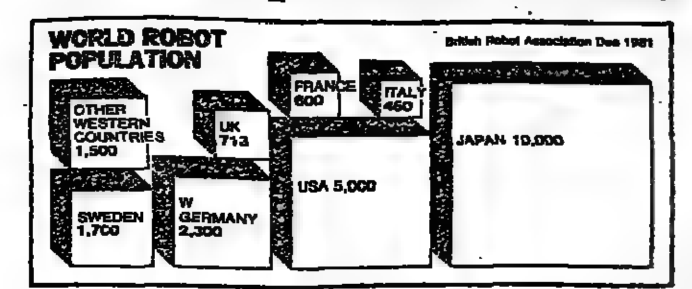
An American psychiatrist working in Salisbury says ex-combatants actually experienced surprisingly little psychological trauma, and *that those who did* are hard to treat by Western analysis. "The culture does not encourage talking about inner feelings", he says.

The rehabilitation programme supervisors nonetheless hope soon to include more emphasis on emotional and mental health.

The Government expects that all Zimbabwe's disabled ex-combatants will have finished rehabilitation by 1987. In the meantime, and indeed indefinitely if necessary, the ex-guerrillas will receive state pensions in proportion to the degree of their disability. The Governmennt will also pay for schooling all the way through university. Ex-combataots in general have been found to be above average in intelligence, and some ambitious ones have already enrolled in medical studies.

BUSINESS NEWS

Robot population doubled



Britain's industrial robot population almost doubled last year and now stands at 713, according to the British Robot Association's annual census. That gives the United Kingdom fifth place in the world league—ahead of two European rivals, France (600 robots) and Italy (450). Mr Tom Brock, executive secretary of the association, said: "We will be disappointed if we cannot maintain this growth rate of almost 100 per cent for the next two or three years." The number of industrial robots in Britain should pass 2,000 during 1983.

System X export hopes

System X, the British electronic exchange design, has more export potential in the United States and in Europe than in the Third World as previously believed. The conclusion is contained in a report prepared by Communication Studies and Planning of London on the export potential of the British technology. The report recommends to the government to give th Systm X inventors the £16m required for adapting the export technology provided that satisfactory arrangements are made to market the product in America.

Optimism over Polish debt

West German banking sources are still optimistic that Poland will be able to pay off the interest that it owes as a condition for signing an agreement rescheduling its 1981 commercial bank debt. It is thought the Poles now owe only $150m (£81m) in interest and they will be able to pay it off by Monday as promised by Bank Handlowy of Warsaw last month.

Pressure mounts for Opec meeting

Pressure intensified yesterday for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries after Iran's second oil price cut in four days. The new official price of Iranian light crude is $33.55, undercutting the Saudi Arabian bench mark rate by 45 cents. Shaika Ahmed aki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, who is expected to announce big oil production cuts soon, said an emergency meeting to discuss the erosion of pricing stability was unlikely.

● Two French banks, Credit Lyonnais and Paribas, have signed an agreement to lend the Soviet Union $140m for the construction of the Siberia-Western Europe gas pipeline.

● Thorn Emi has signed an agreement with ABC Video States to distribute films on Enterprises of the United video cassette in Europe and films throughout the world on video disc worldwide.

BL talks go on

Talks between management and shop stewards continued at BL's Bathgate truck plant in West Lothian yesterday in a move to end the strike which is threatening the future of the subsidiary and also the retention of a valuable engines contract with J C Bamford, the earthmoving equipment group. Meanwhile, strikers at the Leyland factory in Lancashire voted to stay out.

Feature, page 15

● Working hours lost to strikes in Italy dropped sharply to 68.71 million in 1981, compared with 115.20 million hours in 1980.

● Industrial output in the European Community fell by up to 2.5 per cent in 1981, but there are signs that the worst of the recession is over, the EEC Statistics Office said.

● Large crude oil deposits have been discovered offshore northwest of Abu Dhabi city in the United Arab Emirates, the Gulf News Agency reported.

MARKET SUMMARY

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 563.2 down 7.5
FT Gilts 64.39 down 0.29
FT All share 324.06 down 3.77
Bargains 19,566

Money supply figures, which were at the high end of expectations, hit the market, with the FT Index down 7.5 to 563.2 at the close after drifting down throughout the day.

The growth in money supply of 1½-1¾ per cent, compared with market forecasts of 1 per cent, pushed gilts down £½ with losses among leading shares ranging from 2p to 10p.

Among falls, Beecham was 4p down at 238p, Glaxo shed 4p to 470p, Hawker was 10p easier at 326p and Lucas at 211p down 5p.

Building and property group Wood Hall Trust leapt 49p to 205p as brokers Fielding Newson-Smith staged a dawn raid on behalf of an unnamed buyer, possibly the Australian Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Group, prepared to pay 200p per share for a 10 per cent stake, which it almost achieved. before the price rose below 200p.

United Scientific jumped 20p to 638p after its annual report, bur slipped back to 613p. Favourable trading statements were not enough to support Crest Nicholson, 4p off at 89p, Donald Macpherson, down 5p at 80p, and Amstrad, slipping 10p at 230p.

Essex-based property developer Crouch Group slipped 6p to 100p after reporting a 30 per cent fall in profits at the half-way stage.

After recent bearish comments on his own company's prospects, the words of Bass chairman Mr Derek Palmer in a speech to a broker's conference brought further falls in the brewery sector.

Bass shed 5p to 215p, with Whitbread "A" ending the day down 5p at 101p. Second-line breweries also fell in line with the market after the speculative interest accompanying the Boddingtons/Oldham deal.

Sir Maxwell Joseph, Grand Metropolitan chairman, said in his annual statement that the group was determined to cut borrowings but to maintain an adequate level of capital investment.

He added that results are holding up well, but the shares responded with a 7p fall to 191p.

The loss-making pharmaceuticals group Sangers is still in talks with Bermuda-based financier Mr Tom Whyte over a possible place for him on the board which may cost Hill Samuel their role as Sangers' financial advisers. Sangers' shares lost 2p to 43p.

Gareth David

COMMODITIES

● Rubber prices weakened again on the London terminal market yesterday, reaching their lowest for the contract. March closed 35p down at 47.55p a kilogramme, and April fell 25p to 48.65p a kilogramme. Spot prices have also been softer. A spokesman for the Rubber Trade Association of London said that RSS One was quoted at 45/46.50p a kilogramme on Monday, the lowest for four years. The International Rubber Organization buffer stock manager bought March rubber, traders said.

● Tin remained confusing. The cash price fell by £3 a tonne to £8,952, while three months gained £17 to £8,002. Dealers said that £9,000 a tonne is still being offered for the critical delivery dates in the middle of this month.

RUBBER
pence per kilo — London 2nd position
53 / 52 / 51 / 50 / 49 / 48
DEC JAN

OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,292.47 down 29.92
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,794.19 up 9.30

CURRENCIES

● Firm Eurodollar rates boosted the dollar, while worse-than-expected United Kingdom money supply figures hit the pound.

LONDON CLOSE

STERLING
$ 1.8420 down 195 points
Index 9.5 down 0.4
DM 4.3775
Fr F 11.1050
Yen 435.50

DOLLAR
Index 112.4 up 0.7
DM 2.3752 up 177pts

GOLD
$378.00 down 75 cents

MONEY MARKETS

● Period rates were slightly firmer. The Bank relieved a shortage of £300m at unchanged rates.

Domestic rates:
Base rates 14%
3-month interbank 14⅜
Euro-currency rates
3 month dolalr 16⅛-16¼
3 month DM 10⅛-10⅞
3 month Fr F 15½-15⅞

Carr Sebag sells off Far East interests

By Philip Robinson

One of the biggest stockbroking mergers of recent years, between W I Carr and Joseph Sebag, in 1979 was split apart yesterday when Carr Sebag decided to sell the lucrative Far Eastern business built up by Carr to Exco International, the money brokers.

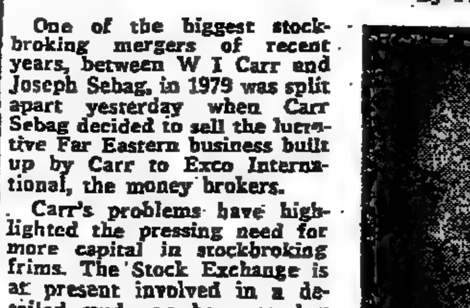
Carr's problems have highlighted the pressing need for more capital in stockbroking frims. The Stock Exchange is at present involved in a detailed study on how member firms are financed.

Partners of Carr Sebag, which has been the subject of rumours of liquidity problems for almost six weeks, will be paid a total of £4.5m for 75 per cent of W. I. Carr, Son & Co (Overseas) (Wico).

It is the first time an outsider has bought a broking business from a member of the Stock Exchange and Exco is paying £3m cash to the partners, who are then entitled to 70 per cent of the pretax profits of Wico for the year to March 1982.

Profits last year were £1.25m and, given the purchase price, the City estimates that this year's profits will exceed £2m. Completion of the deal, which is subject to Exco shareholders' approval is expected on April 1.

But how much of the purchase price goes back into the Carr Sebag business remains to be seen. The £3m is being paid to partners half of whom are Wico and half, Carr Sebag. The Carr Sebag partners will effectively have £1.5m which they can put into the firm



Mr Sandy Gilmour: senior partner of Carr Sebag.

when its new capital base is declared on April 15.

The capital base from which stockbrokers work has been the subject of much concern recently. The Stock Exchange's study on capitalization and funding of member firms, is understood to be far from complete.

However brokers are considering raising the tlevel at which outside shareholders can take share stakes in limited partnerships from 10 per cent to 30 per cent.

The Stock Exchange has never been happy with shareholders, who have limited liability owning a large interest in firms whose partners have unlimited liability.

Meanwhile Exco, which became a public company less than three months ago, plans to inject a further £500,000 of working capital into Wico and develop it into an international stockbroking business. Through Wico, Exco will acquire offices throughout the Far East and North America and intends to set up in Australia and Singapore. It is fast emerging as a UK-based financial "supermarket".

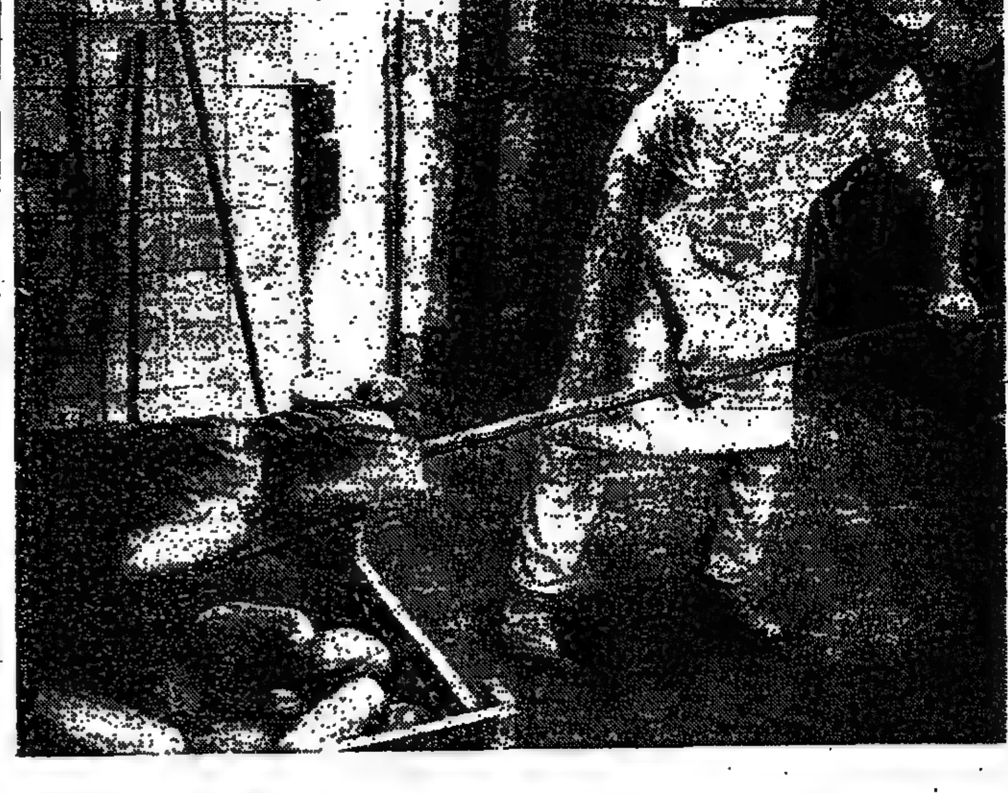
Exco also has an option to buy out the remaining 25 per cent of Wico afr er 1984. That stake is split between senior executives and staff based in Hongkong which include Mr Roger Powner who started Carr's Far Eastern business and will be joint managing director in the colony.

Mr Philip Rimell will be joint managing director in London. Both will report to Mr Richard Bradley, the new chairman, a director of Exco who resigned on Monday as number two at Save and Prosper, the unit trust group, and was a partner in W. I. Carr until the merger.

Mr Bradley negotiated the Wico deal after two months' research for Exco on how the group could get into stockbroking.

The money brokers entered the ring about four weeks ago, after Carr Sebag failed to put together a deal which would have involved an institution taking a big stake in the entire firm.

The banks were ruled out because of the possible conflict of interest. The Exco deal was agreed on Monday night. Links between Carr Sebag's large private client business and Wico, which provided most of the London firms' profit, will be maintained.



RHM closes four bakeries

By Rupert Morris

Ranks Hovis MacDougall is to close four bakeries making 680 redundant and raising fears of further cutbacks in response to overcapacity and a continuing decline in bread consumption.

Two hundred will lose their jobs at RHM's Portsmouth bakery, formerly Smith and Vospers; 192 will be made redundant at the Mother's Pride bakery at Oxford, 240 at Akerman's of Croydon, and 46 at a bakery at Coatbridge, near Glasgow.

A further 388 employees will be re-employed elsewhere within the group, and braed production will be switched to Bristol, Greenford, Cheltenham and Leighton Buzzard.

The Bakers, Food and Allied Workers' Union, which meets the company tomorrow, was more dismayed than shocked at the closures.

"There is a serious problem", Mr Paul Sagoo, regional officer, said. "There were seven bakery closures last year, and I would not be surprised if there were a few more this year."

Bread consumption has been declining for many years, and the Bakers' Federation said yesterday that although there had been some recovery in the past two years, the overall trend was still downwards.

At the same time, people are showing much greater interest in brown bread and varieties sold in Hot Bread Shops or supermarkets' in-house bakeries.

RHM said yesterday the closures were necessary because of "significant losses" at the four plants, where the machinery was outdated, and new investment could not be justified.

The company, which supplies just under 30 per cent of Britain's bread, made a healthy £45m profit last year, but that was thanks to the grocery and cake side of the business. Bread profits were well down on the previous year.

The growing trend among the leading supermarket chains to make their own bread on the premises was an important factor in the decline, RHM said.

Sainsburys said that it had no evidence that it was ordering less bread from the big bakers. But like Tesco, Waitrose and other chains, Sainsburys is planning to extend its in-house bakeries from the present figure of 60 among its 218 supermarkets in England and Wales.

Many in the industry believe that Britain's bread makers could be heading for a crisis similar to that of 1978, which saw the demise of Spillers' bread-making operation.

The market is now dominated by Associated British Foods, makers of Sunblest, and RHM, makers of Mother's Pride and Hovis. Together they account for 60 per cent of bread production.

But consumers' preference for home-made bread, and the inability of factories with old mauhinery to adapt to new demand for different types of loaves, makes Associated's and RHM's position daily less secure.

RHM said yesterday: "These closures are part of a continuing process of concentration of production. Twenty years ago we had well over 100 bakeries. Today we have 60."

Although the company would not comment on the possibility of further closures, many of the 60 remaining bakeries use machinery which is similarly outdated.

Cheaper electricity plea fails

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

The 7Electricity Council is not prepared to make any fundamental changes in the way large industrial users are charged for their electricity.

The council's review of the bulk supply tariff for industry was made public yesterday on the orders of Mr Nigel Lawson, the Secretary of State for Energy. It fails far short of the concessions demanded by heavy industry, notably steel producers, who hav been complaining that they have to pay up to 30 per cent more than some continental competitors.

The biggest concession is that the council is prepared to revise its category C of consumers who are supplied with cheaper electricity if they are prepared to accept reductions in supply at short notice. The category would be replaced by a new concept of "load management consumer" which, the review says, "requires further development in detail". However, the council makes clear that these favoured customers would still have to satisfy stringent conditions.

The review also proposes a numbe rof minor concessions in the general bulk supply tariff, by altering the peak, standard and night rates.

The council does not say how much industrial users might save by taking full advantages of the changes, but the figure seems unlikely to be more than 3 or 4 per cent.

A spokesman for the Departmnt of Energy said the Government had made the review public so that industrial consumers could make comments before the 1982-83 tariffs were implemented. "We are also discussing the proposals with the electricity supply industry as a matter of urgency", he added.

Mr Bryan Rigby, deputy director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said last night that he had not yet seen the review. However, he added: "It is still open to the Government to extend help to large consumers, but this will clearly have to be achieved by special arrangements rather than changes to the bulk supply tariff".

The review, which was prepared by an Electricity Council task force in consultation with the Central Electricity Generating Board, considers and rejects some of the more fundamental changes in the bulk supply tariff that have been suggested by industrial groups. For example, a "plant-type" structure, which would give preferential pricing to high load factor supplies, is criticized for being "complex and difficult to formulate".

A system based on short-run marginal costs, rather than the long-run marginal costs of the present tariff, would produce substantial savings for large industrial consumers. But it would cost the electricity supply industry 16 per cent of its revenues and, the review says, "the industry could not countenance planning for such losses, not least in view of the requirement that the CEGB should 'at least break even taking one year with another'."

A report by the National Economic Development Council's energy task force last November showed that, although most industrial users in Britain enjoyed electricity prices broadly comparable

Hamro Life upsets unit trust

Hambro Life's top salesmen are to be allowed to sell unit trusts to individual investors in a move which many will regard as circumventing the present tight restrictions on offering units to the public door to door.

Last year Allied Hambro, which has more than £400m of unit trust funds under management, merged with Hambro Life, which has a sales force of about 4,000 selling life insurance to the public.

Now 800 specially trained salesmen will be able to sell unit trusts to life insurance customers if the clients ask, the company says.

But Mr Paul Jennings, of rival unit trust group M&G, which also has an insurance arm, said: "I feel it is the wrong way to sell units, although it does open up a large new avenue on the marketing side".

And Mr Tim Miller, director of the Framlington group of unit trusts, said it was a "most unfortunate development", adding: "I think it will be very difficult to police life insurance salesmen who now find themselves able to sell units".

Hambro Life has cleared its move with the Department of Trade. A life insurance salesman may only sell units at a second meeting requested by the customer. He is not allowed to suggest the idea in the first place.

Mr Syd Lipworth, a director of Hambro Life, said: "We have established very strict controls on our salesmen."

Mr Mark St Giles, managing director of Allied Hambro and chairman of the Unit Trust Association, said that other groups would follow the lead.

US rejects early deal on steel dumping cases

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Feb 9

The Reagan Administration has decided against an early settlement of steel "dumping" cases presently dividing the United States and Europe, preferring instead to await the legal outcome of about 100 complaints.

Mr William Brock, the United States trade representative, said today that even though the administration would do everything to avoid a trade war with Europe, it was not ready to negotiate a steel settlement.

Instead, the administration has decided to await the result of investigations by the United States International Trade Com mission and the Commerce Department of complaints filed by American steel companies

Mr Brock's statement was the clearest indication to date of the American position in the steel controversy which is the focal point of talks in Washington this week between the European Community and the Reagan Administration.

American companies have been pressing the administration to settle the cases by negotiating country-by-country quotas on steel imports.

European Community representatives, while rejecting the idea of quotas, have indicated their willingness to negotiate

Malaysia cuts tin production

Malaysia yesterday announced that it would cut tin production by 25 per cent and try to sell tin directly to consumers, by-passing the London Metal Exchange, thereby raising the stakes in the battle being fought in the market.

Datuk Sri Mahathir Mohammad, the Malaysian prime minister, said that his country would reduce its tin production by 15,000 tonnes a year. Malaysia's tin output last year was 69,488 tonnes. The cut is equivalent to 8.9 per cent of export earnings.

Market sources in London saw the move as an attempt to underpin the record prices which mystery buyers—believed to be tin producers—have engineered on the LME. Cash tin was £8,952 a tonne yesterday, a backwardation of £950.

Datuk Sri Mahathir confirmed that tin producers are planning a marketing organization similar to that formed by rubber producers. Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Bolivia are likely to join such a pact. These countries control about two-thirds of world production of 180,000 tonnes of tin a year.

Private borrowing jumps by £1,500m

By John Whitmore

Latest figures for State borrowing continue to suggest that the Government is well on course to meet its borrowing targets in the present financial year.

But the strength of bank lending to the private sector is still making it difficult for the authorities to get the money supply firmly under control.

In the banking month to mid-January Sterling M3, the broad measure of banking money, grew by an estimated 1½-1¾ per cent, according to the Bank of England. his follows a rise of only 0.2 per cent in the short December banking month.

The latest increase seems to have been largely fuelled by a further big increase in private sector credit demand. The London clearing banks estimate that their lending to the private sector over the six-week period showed an underlying rise of £1,500m.

In part this may have reflected the fact that the structure of interest rates at the end of the month led borrowers to make greater use of their overdraft facilities rather than money market loans.

But even if private sector lending by other banks was less than buoyant, final figures for the system as a whole are likely to point to an uncomfortably large total increase thanks to further sizable purchases of commercial bills by the Bank of England. The seasonally adjusted figure for lending to the private sector could, on some estimates, come out at about £1,750m.

☐ Rising dollar interest rates spurred on the dollar in active and sometimes hectic currency trading yesterday. It closed in London below its best levels, but still 1¾ pfennigs up on the day at a five-month high of DM2.3752.

The pound fell back sharply, not only against the dollar but also against Continental currencies after a strong beginning.

Disappointing money supply figures fuelled the drop, which was sparked off by commercial selling during the morning. Sterling finished London trading at $1.8420, the lowest for more than three months.

Business Editor, page 15

Booking boom for tour operators

Three-way battle for Laker Travel

Three main contenders emerged last night for the Laker package holiday subsidiaries of Laker Travel and Arrowsmith. They were British Caledonian, Intasun and Cosmos.

Thomson Holidays, at one time expected to be among the bidders, said last night that it would not make offers for the two companies.

Thomson was among tour operators reporting continued high level bookings this week after the weekend scramble by travel agents switching clients from Laker. This reflects a heavy erosion of the main value of the Laker subsidiaries which, when Laker crashed on Friday, had an estimated 150,000 firm bookings for late winter and summer holidays.

The Midlands-based Horizon has also seen a big jump in bookings. These were nearly treble last year's comparable sales over the weekend at

Intasun Cosmos

11,000 booking options. Monday's bookings of more than 9,500 was more than double last year's comparable figures, largely due to switching from Laker, although there is an element of overall increased trading this year, Horizon believes.

Horizon's decision not to bid for Laker was explained by Mr Ken Franklin, the company's deputy managing director, who said: "As we see it, there is not a lot there. It looks as if most of the passengers have re-booked and it looks as if many hoteliers have resigned the hotel contracts held by Laker."

But in the United Kingdom package holiday market—amounting now to more than five-million holidays a year but possibly facing a decline of 5 per cent this summer compared with last year—there have been some attractions in Arrowsmith particularly for operators which have been pushing most strongly for a higher market share.

Some have been winning. Mr Harry Goodman's Intasun had about 10 per cent market share in 1981 compared with the 20 per cent of Thomson, headed by Mr Davies. But in the big summer market, trade sources indicate Intasun up 5 per cent last year while Thomson saw a decline in share of the summer market.

The other big growth operator has been Blue Sky, part of Mr Adam Thomson's British Caledonian. It carried 170,000 holidaymakers last year, accounting for some 3 per cent of the market. Its summer carryings were about 40 per cent up last year

Mr Sidney Silver's Cosmos had been running at 9 per cent share of the package holiday market but trade estimates of its decline in summer traffic last year was near 20 per cent. Cosmos slashed many prices and expanded its holiday programme this year to get back on a growth path.

Expansion at British Caledonian's Blue Sky suggests that the airline itself might consider buying some of the Laker aircraft if prices were sufficiently low in order to gear up its charter operations catering for package holidays.

An increase in chartering is also anticipated by Mr Reg Pycroft, head of Jetsave, the transatlantic holidays operations which is part of Associated Communications Corporation.

The big loser and likely winners in Laker collapse

Canny Scots fear worst

Charlotte Square's financial outlook tends toward pessimism compared with the Ssuare Mile: "What is the stare of the balance sheet?" is the question Edinburgh financiers ask before applying their own judgment.

In the case of Clydesdale Bank, the Midland Bank subsidiary, and its involvement with Laker, Scotish analysts and institutions fear the worst—a full write-off of an estimated £20m in Laker debts in Midland's group accounts which are due on March 19.

Laker's £9m overdraft came from the Clydesdale. Midland is also involved in the $131m consortius loan for three Airbuses. Market opinion puts their net stake at around $10m.

There is also the question of the £5m bond Clydesdale made available last October to cover the cost of ferrying stranded passengers to their destinations.

More sanguine estimates are that the loss provision will be far less than £20m, and that the London market is not too worried over Midland's heavy involvement with Laker. The issue is how much of the commitment to Laker will have to be written off.

The sensible view seems to be to asume the worst and expect a full write-off. The difficulty may be that in between Laker's request last autumn for re-scheduling of its debts and the start of the final crisis, an unpredictable number of things went wrong.

Midland reportedly has a floating charge on the Laker assets. The questions the City is asking is where exactly this puts it in the pecking order for repayment, and how much can be realized?

Estimates of Midland's year end figures vary greatly. Poor fourth quarter results at Crocker, the Midland's United States subsidiary as a result of exceptional bad debt provisions point to a fall in pretax profits from £231.8m to £219m, according to brokers James Capel. Wood Mackenzie on the other hand sees a modest increase to £235m, and Hoare Govett goes for £240m.



Sir David Barran: £20m write-off feared

Holidays up for grabs

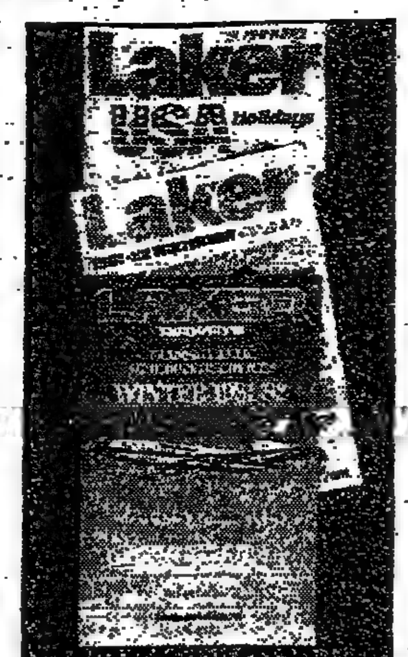
The collapse of Laker Airways has put a poltential two hundred thousand would-be holiday makers back on the market, although it is to early to compute exact figures on who will end up conveying them on their quest for the sun. All that can be said is that the investment appraisal of Horizon Travel and Intasun Leisure has become even more favourable.

At Carr Sebag, Mr Roy Owens did a study of the holiday sector before the snow and ice of December causer so many people to book their summer holidays with great alacrity.

At the end of November Horizon Travel shares stood at 276p—now 328p—and Intasun Leisure were at 92p—now 110p. These two are the only travel companies with an independent quotation in the sector of the market which included Laker. Others in the sector include Thomson olidays, part of International Thomson; Global, part of Great Universal Stores; Cosmos, a Swiss group and Saga which specializes in off-season holidays for over-60s.

"At this stage there are just no exact figures. These holidaymakers will probably end up scattered around the groups. They may have a problem if they all want to go at peak times—there may not be enough spaces for them," Mr Owens said.

The institutions still seem to be a little cautious of the holiday company sector, and the Laker experience has not helped. Apart from the occasional spectacular disaster, the sector is also subject to the up and downs of consumer spending power, and the strength or weakness of sterling. These cyclical disadvantages have left the sector on a relatively low p/e.



Horizon Travel is a solid company which many regard as the best in the sector. Carr Sebag are predicting profits of £12.5m for the year ended last November, which will put Horizon at a p/e of 5.4 on an actual tax charge and a yield of 2.2 per cent. The date of Horizon's year end means that any benefit from Laker's failure will fall in the period to be reported in nearly 1983—a long time ahead.

At present it is bard to guess figures this financial year at Horizon's without knowing how sterling will perform in 1982, or how the weather or strikes will affect the results. An improvement, however, looks certain.

Intasun is quoted on the unlisted securities market. It is what is described as an entreprencurial company, with a much shorter stock market history. But it has a good track record.

The forecast is for about £13.5m for the year to March 1982, which put the company on a p/e of 5.7 per cent on an actual tax charge and a yield of 4.5 per cent.

Malayia claims its own

While Harrisons & Crosfield may not be at the forefront of Lord Carrington's thoughts on his present trip to Malaysia, the same is probably not true of his hosts who want to take control of the company (Sally White writes).

With its economy under stress, and raw material prices weak, the Malaysian Government wants to control the country's resources and Permodolan, the state company owns only about 8 per cent at present. Other Far Eastern holdings in the company amount to between

RIGHTS ISSUES

Oil men hunt for extra cash

Hunting Petroleum Services and Steaua Romana (British), both in the energy business, came to the market yesterday for extra cash. Hunting is seeking an additional £12.5m, while Steaua wants £1.56m.

Three new ordinary shares of 25p and £7 convertible stock for every 10 ordinary or deferred shares already held are offered by Hunting. Steaua's terms are one new ordinary share for every two ordinary held or every 10 deferred shares.

But whereas Steaua plans to use the money to buy overriding royalties from prospects in the United States, Hunting intends to buy out minority interests in directional drilling and mud service subsidiaries.

Directional drilling involves targets at an angle from the drilling platform. Muds are the lubricants in drill holes. Hunting is extensively involved in the North Sea, and n other offshore oilfields such as the Gulf and the southern United States.

In support of its rights issue, Hunting forecasts pretax profits for 1981 at £7.1m, compared with £4.1m in 1980. The board also says that the final dividend will be 7.5p gross, bringing the year's payout to 10.7p gross, an increase of 15.4 per cent.

Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, is acting for Hunting. The interests to be acquired are 49 per cent of each of Hunting Drilltech, Hunting Drilling Fluids and Equipment, Hunting Drilltech NV, and International Mud Services. Hunting Drilltech, a wholly owned subsidiary, will also take 49 per cent of the partnerships Hunting Brilltech and Hunting DF & E.

Steaua, which is traded under rule 163 (3) of the Stock Exchange, will buy from two consulting geologists to May Petroleum, a Houston company, overriding royalties to 60 oil and gas prospects along the Rocky Mountain Overthrust Belt and in the Pacific North West. No further funds will be required to take part in the royalties from the properties on which overriding royalties would have been payable.

AARONSON

Profits plunge

The price of maintaining its market share has proved a costly venture for Aaronson Bros, the plastics laminates group, where pretax profits for the full year to September 30 plunged from £1.9m to £543,000.

The company continues to blame fierce competition from its main European rivals which have been able to dump their stock at greatly reduced prices, while benefiting from the high level of sterling. Profits at the half-way stage from £1.4m to £444,000.

Costs have continued to rise, increasing pressure on already eroded margins and forcing up the level of borrowings.

To combat the squeeze, further cuts in prices were introduced of between 5 per cent and 10 per cent. While the cuts failed to ease pressure on margins, the group was able to hold on to its market share.

But shareholders will be asked to take a cut in the final dividend from 4.28p to 0.857p gross, making a total for the year of 1.7p against 6p.

Included in the figures is an exceptional charge of £822,000 against £1.311m for further write-offs in goodwill and the closure of several production lines with the loss of up to 60 jobs.

Nevertheless, the outlook appears a little healthier and the board experts this year to be better.

year end the group's overdraft was increased by £1m to just over £12m, raising interest charges from £1.4m to £2.1m.

AMSTRAD

Sales double

Amstrad Consumer Electronics, the Tottenham-based hifi and electronics group, yesterday announced a substantial increase in pretax profits for the half year to December.

From £1.3m last year, profits rose to £2.85m. Sales more than doubled from £7.5m to £15.6m.

Mr Alan Sugar, chairman of the company, said the increase in sales was in part attributed to a television advertising campaign. Amstrad's heavy involvement in CB radio and the continued high demand for racked hifi systems were also responsible.

Donald Macpherson

Fresh as pain

Donald Macpherson, which supplies to Woolworths with Cover Plus paints, has pushed up its pretax profits by 27 per cent to £2.8m for the year to October in a tough and depressed national market.

Much of the increase comes from a boost in earnings from its overseas companies, export orders and lower interest charges while trading profits from the UK market are down. So pretax profits have been achieved on volume virtually unchanged from 1980. Sales were £10m higher at £90m. The group's shares fell 5p to 80p on the news of a final dividend held at 3.85p gross, making a total dividend of 6p gross.

However, the results do show a recovery from the half-way stage when profits fell from £2m to £1.2m although the group says that difficult trading conditions persisted in the second-half. Increased efficiency and overall slimming down—the workforce has been cut by 500—have also helped.

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES

Net profits of Boeing fell from $600.5m to $473m (£257m). Sales were $9,790m against $9,403m.

Mr T. A. Wilson chairman, attributed the earnings decline to recession-softened demand for the company's 727 and 747 aircraft, lower interest income and the continued high cost of research development and engineering related principally to the company's 757 and 767 programme.

Western Mining Corporation Holdings 1981/82 first-half net profits fell 80 per cent to $5.51m (£3.9m) from $33.16m, on turnover of $125.82m against $158.22m and other income of $20.02m against $14.16m. The Australian gold and nickel producer expects low profits throughout its year to end une.

Cycle and Carriage, of Singapore, made a group net profit of S$2.91m (£75,000)

Turnover was S$453.76m against S$510.33m. The profit is after extraordinary losses of S$27.53m against a profit of S$8.12m arising from the translation of foreign net assets into Singapore dollars, a provision against the value of investments in Newman Industries and an exchange loss on the loan made to a United Kingdom subsidiary

LATEST RESULTS

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Amstrad (I)	15.6(7.59)	2.58(1.3)	27.7(14.1)	1.87(—)	—	—(—)
Crescent Japan (F)	—(—)	0.22(0.13)	1.66(0.95)	1.5(0.95)	2/4	1.5(0.95)
Crouch (I)	7.23(8.52)	0.16(0.23)	3.57(0.35)	1.07(1.07)	30/4	—(4.4)
Broadstone Inv. (F)	—(—)	1.65(1.64)	7.49(7.35)	5.25(—)	22/4	7.45(7.1)
Crest Nich (F)	54(48.4)	6.32(3.42)	8.7(11.3)	1.7(1.3)	16/4	2.8(2.3)
Guildhall Prop (I)	—(—)	0.53(0.5)	—(—)	0.7(0.7)	1/4	—(5.15)
Wm Jackson (I)	69.73(66.42)	0.4(1.05)	—(—)	—(—)	—	—(—)
Lancs & Lon Inv (F)	—(—)	0.19(0.17)	—(—)	2.8(2.6)	5/3	2.8(2.6)
Ladies Pride (F)	7.19(8.25)	2.86(2.26)	—(—)	2(2)	8/4	3.4(3.4)
D Macpherson (F)	90.3(80.8)	0.62(1.16)	7.5(2.7)	2.7(2.7)	—	4.2(4.2)
A J Worthington (I)	1.48(1.29)	0.007a(0.017)	0.55a(0.86)	0.3(0.4)	31/3	—(0.9)

Dividends in this table are shown net on its on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. a Loss.

BIDS AND DEALS

Carpets International, Britain's biggest carpet group, is forging closer links with the Hongkong carpets company that holds almost 30 per cent of its shares. A £700,000 deal has been lined up for HongKong Carpet Manufacturers to take a 40 per cent stake in the UK group's own HongKong-based operating company.

Carpets International says the closer links with HongKong Carpet Manufacturers will strengthen its operations in South East Asia.

Mergers cleared. The following proposed mergers are not to be referred to the Monopolies Commission. Lloyds and Scottish-Bowmaker. United Biscuits (Holdings)-Joseph Terry and Sons.

The West German central capital market surbcommittee was set a two-month calendar for new mark-denominated Eurobond issues totalling DM2,300m (£534m), the beaviest in recent memory, according to Frankfurt bond traders.

Nippon Sheet Glass will issue 15m new 50 yen nominal shares in the form of European Depositary Receipts and also a 30m convertible mark bond, with both payments due March 11.

COMMODITIES

[illegible]

WALL STREET

New York, Feb 9.—Prices opened lower in active trading on New York Stock Exchange today.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by 2.09 points to 831.33 shortly after the market opened.

Declines outnumbered advances, 627-192, among the 1,172 issues crossing the tape.

Early "big board" volume amounted to about 4.1m shares.

Prices were lower in active trading on the American Stock Exchange.

Analysts expected downward pressure on the market to continue at the outset of trading and possibly throughout this week.

Some had thought the market was trying to establish a base or support level at the Dow 840 mark. Now that the "blue chip" indicator has broken through that area, they expect it to try to find a lower support level.

	Feb 8	Feb 5		Feb 8	Feb 5		Feb 8	Feb 5
[illegible]								

Canadian Prices

[illegible]	

INTERNATIONAL

BELGIUM

The Belgian Government is studying plans to save Cockerill Yards—the shipbuilding company declared bankrupt by taking a 49 per cent interest in the company and restructuring it to reduce wage costs.

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand should curb reflationary policies in order to improve its balance of payments deficit and control inflation, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in Paris.

NORWAY

Norway expects to allocate six blocks in the fifth round of concessions for oil exploration north of the 62nd Parallel in the North Sea, due to be

ITALY

French state aid to home and foreign companies investing in depressed regions will rise to FFr1,300m (£119m) this year from FFr800m (£73m) in 1981, and the ceiling on individual loans will double to FFr50,000 (£4,580) for each job created, the regional development agency said in Paris.

JAPAN

Japan's direct overseas investment reached $5,300m (£2,850m), in the first half of the fiscal year ending in March, already surpassing the record for any single year, the Japan External Trade Organization said.

● Japanese private sector machinery orders, excluding ships, are expected to fall 10.4 per cent in first quarter of 1982 to a seasonally adjusted y1,534,000m (£3,486m) from y1,713,000m in fourth quarter 1981.

SOVIET UNION

The Soviet Union is to increase the number of industrial robots operating in its factories to 100,000 by 1986, the Movosti Press Agency said in Moscow.

UGANDA

West Germany and Uganda have signed a "Financial cooperation agreement" which provides for $6m (£3.3m) to conduct development studies including one on the rebuilding of the east African nation's pharmaceutical industry.

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's gold reserve holdings fell by about 130,000 ounces during January to 9.16 million ounces at the end of the month, according to figures published by the Reserve Bank. the value of the bank's gold holdings dropped from R3,190m (£1,670m) at the end of December to R3,040m (£1,590m) on January 31.

● The South African government claims unemployment among the country's blacks is about 7.3 per cent. However, official figures are believed to understate the case — private sector economists think a true figure is between 10 and 20 per cent.

Hongkong

Hongkong's total trade last year amounted to HK$260,537,000m (£23,700m), a 24 per cent increase over 1980. The conoly's top five trading partners were: the United States, Japan, China, the United Kingdom and Singapore.

هكذا من الأصل



PEOPLE

Prudential window dressing

A sky overcast; no glare; visibility of the sort golfers relish; so why was I less than spellbound at the unveiling yesterday of the Prudential's new shop window in the City?

For at its Lime Street branch, hard by the Lloyd's insurance market and the Baltic shipping exchange, the Pru yesterday became the first United Kingdom subscriber to Reuter's financial news service as exhibited on an electronic blackboard. An old Pru hand said: "At least we decided what to do with that damned window". Another thought the display a change from potted palms and posters advertising sports.

We guests trooped outside and watched dim electronic words pass sedately in front of us from right to left as if it was Arabic. Slowly we deciphered information about gold napoleons. The Reuters man looked at me doubtfully. "Perhaps we should cross the road. We should read it better there. We did. The electronic words became invisible.

The Reuters man came to a decision. Perhaps we had better take off the grill, he said. At this point I left. It took a minute for the FT Index to come up on the visual display, but perhaps it was better than sport for which, alas, I have a blind spot.

This Sugar is good for you



Alan Sugar — sweet talk

A haughty spirit goes before a fall, the Book says, and if John Bloom of Rolls Razor and Sir Freddie Laker had a failing in common it was the over confidence that depends on other people's money.

Alan Sugar, 34, is the man, in City eyes at least, who is Amstrad Consumer Electronics, the hi-fi and car entertainment group which has so far not put a foot wrong.

Who can quibble with doubled profits and a dividend up a fifth? What shareholder will sniff at shares worth three times more than when they were offered for sale less than two years ago?

Sugar tells me: "The two men you mention made one mistake — they borrowed money. I do not owe a penny to anyone. Indeed my company has a lot of cash in the bank". "How," I asked, "do you plan to keep an eye on everything as your group grows bigger?" He replied: "I have a good team."

This businessman has the canniness of one much older. He has, however, to make his first mistake. But it is something that he has not sold a single share, and possibly more that his profits do not lean overmuch on CB Radio. "People got over excited when it came in," he tells me.

"Now they're falling for a lot of nonsense about a big sleep. It is simply steady business."

How I wish he knew who would succeed him if he fell under a bus.



"Your father's in a frightful mood this morning. They've left his name out of the Rolls advert again."

Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr J. H. Carter, Mr R. A. Daws, Mr J. E. Reynolds and Mr F. E. Thorne have been appointed directors of C. T. Bowring Reinsurance.

Mr Alan Beswick has been appointed director of purchasing of Unipart.

Mr R. H. K. Seelig, a director of Morgan Grenfell has been appointed to the board of Morgan Grenfell Incorporated, the wholly-owned American subsidiary company of Morgan Grenfell.

Mr J. R. F. Fairbrother and Mr G. A. Maclean have been appointed as directors and Mr J. E. Heskett a manager of Baring Brothers.

BL's truck division may be running out of road

Today the BL board meets to thrash out the future of its strike bound trucks division. BL says the subsidiary will have little chance of survival without 4,000 redundancies. Edward Townsend reports.

Commercial vehicle registrations

Units 000's

Total UK market

Imports

BL share*

300

200

100

1973 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81

* Includes car-derived vans and Land Rovers

Once again, just as it seemed as if the millstone of British Leyland was slowly being lifted from the taxpayers' overburdened shoulders, another deepening crisis is threatening the state-owned enterprise.

The Leyland Group, the company's truck and bus section, which traditionally has been more stable than the volatile cars operation, has been paralysed by strike action for nearly three weeks, and with no sign of a settlement, BL has begun to deliver the dire warnings that workers throughout the company have heard all to often before.

Without the 4,100 redundancies and restructuring — the cause of the present dispute — the trucks business has little chance of survival, BL says. The stoppage is said to be threatening the whole future of BL truck-making while overseas customers "must be asking why a proud company with such long traditions can comit *hara-kiri*."

Today, the BL board meets for the first time since the Leyland crisis erupted and may have to make some harsh decisions about the future size of Leyland and the current extensive model replacement programme.

This was the cloud that hung over Sir Michael Edwardes, BL chairman, when he faced more than two hours of Select Committee grilling in the House of Commons recently. He was able to tell MPs that at last things were looking up, and a trading profit for 1983 was on the cards, but that the trucks business presented the greatest uncertainty.

It has since become clear that the BL board foresaw at the end of last year that unless some major surgery was performed on Leyland — its losses have continued this year at a rate of £2m a week — the government was likely to rethink its £990m, two-year funding of the BL survival plan.

The bombshell was dropped by Mr David Andrews, BL, executive deputy chairman last November. At the Leyland assembly plant, Lancashire, 1,855 jobs were to go, a further 1,350 redundancies at Bathgate, West Lothian, which is to become the company's primary engine facility, 750 at Guy Motors in Wolverhampton which is to be closed, 120 at Albion Motors in Glasgow, and a further 25 administrative posts.

With almost 19 per cent of the Leyland Group workforce due to be sacked, feelings understandably are running high and heels are being dug in. Only 100 of the Leyland strikers voted at their last mass meeting against continuing the stoppage and discussions between management and union officials ended in deadlock last week. Formal talks are not to be resumed unil next Monday. Leyland workers, proud of their truck-making traditions, want new investment, expansion and scrapping of the redundancy plans.

The stalemate could well force the company into a more savage pruning operation. The fear abong workers is that BL, which has little, if any, money to spare to finance a prolonged shut down of trucks output, may close factores and turn the business into a mere assembly operation for other firms' components, a move which some claim was BL's intention from the start.

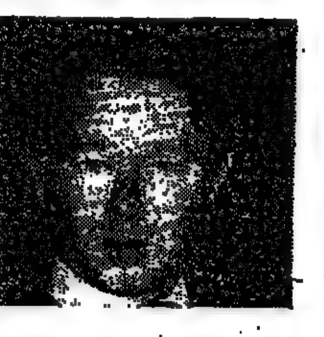
Clear warnings of hard times agead for the truck workers were contained in BL review of its 1981 performance presented to the Government in December. The greatest problems and worst results lay in the Leyland group, it said, and "massive cost reductions" were necessary for viability.

The revised 1982 plan for trucks, which is now in jepardy, called for restructuring and redundancies but also stressed BL's intention to manufacture a full range of lorries — from vans to heavy articulated vehicles — in a bid to retain the vital support of the group's UK dealers and the confidence of commercial fleet buyers.

It added that future market demand and sales volumes would be much lower than previously forecast "and the business is too complex and the fixed cost structure too expensive for the resources (management, technical, capital) which th lower scale of business could support".

Even with streamlining, the current dispute probably has quashed any hope that the Leyland group would break even this year. And the cuts could prove to be insufficient if the home market for heavy trucks over 3.5 tons gross weight, on which the company is largely dependent, falls significantly below *last year's dismal sales* figure of 44,950.

The reorganisation plan, devised by Mr Andrews and Mr Ron Hancock, Leyland managing director, is based on the weeding-out of the less efficient production operations and a greater reliance on collaboration deals with other companies.



BL chairman Sir Michael Edwardes: he faced two hours of Select Committee grilling at the House of Commons over the future of Leyland.

BL executive deputy chairman, David Andrews: he has special responsibility for the trucks division and broke the news about the redundancies.

Production of Landtrain, the heavy truck for export markets, is to transferred from Guy Motors in Wolverhampton, which is to be closed, to Bathgate.

Tractors and the EA and FG light trucks presently built at Bathgate are to be phased out and the Scottish plant will become the main truck engine facility. BL is about to announce a long-term deal with a major world engine maker for a unit to replace the Bathgate-built 98 series engine (with Bathgate producing some of the parts) but this may now need to be reappraised.

Gearbox manufacture at the Albion works in Glasgow is to cease — only one in ten Leyland trucks is fitted with BL transmission — and the plant will concentrate on axles. The big Leyland facility in Lancashire will become the main assembly plant, building all new models including replacements for the Boxer and Terrier trucks.

In reviewing these measures, BL directors must now be looking at the success of its Indian subsidiary, Ashok Leyland, in which BL has a 50.6 per cent stake.

Significantly, £108m of the £300m capital spending earmarked for the Leyland group in the next four years is for Ashok where truck chassis output is expected to be higher next year than in the United Kingdom is to end and as well as the unamed replacement for the 98 series, Leyland plans to buy Rolls-Royce and United States-built International Harvester power units.

A simplified manufacturing pattern has also been proposed for Leyland's bus making plants but these, too, are being hit by the trucks strike. The four bus factories at Workington, Bristol, Lowestoft and Leeds, which are 50 per cent owned by National Bus, are gradually being starved of automatic transmissions, axles, engines and other bits and pieces from Leyland.

The big factor that has accelerated the need for the rationalization and exacerbated Leyland's troubles was last year's dramatic slump in the truck market at home. Total sales were down by 20 per cent on 1980 to under 218,000 with the importers helped by the success of cheap Japanese vans, increasing their share from 24-31 per cent.

Sir Michael admits that the company was "way out" in its market forecasts but so too was the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders which predicted at the start of 1981 that the year's total van and truck sales would be 240,000.

Unfortunately for Leyland, the sudden plunge in demand occurred just as it was only half way through the introduction of its new T45, a full range of light to heavy trucks aimed at the whole European market.

Starting at the heavy end, Leyland introduced the Roadtrain articulated lorry cab and followed up with the export-only Landtrain and Landmaster trucks, the Constructor, Cruiser and Freighter.

The next key model, at present coded the 207, will replace the 16-ton Clydesdale built at Bathgate. Development work on the 207 has been continuing at Leyland and this is behind some of the unrest in Scotland. The truck is due to be launched at this year's motor show and is regarded by the company as crucial to Leyland's survival.

Scheduled for launch late next year is the final T45 model, a light 7-12 ton vehicle. Financial approval was expected to be agreed at todays' board meeting but there is now a possibility that this will be postponed.

Without the new models, Leyland will be in a poor position to combat the fierce competition from Ford, Bedford and Dodge and the major importers such as Volvo, Mercedes and Iveco.

All these events are taking place against an increasingly gloomy background for the truck industry. DRI Europe, the former Economic Models forecasting group, said in a recent survey that the United Kingdom industry may never recover from the recession and its lack of competitiveness will continue to depress exports. The United Kingdom it said, continues to be "the blackspot of Europe."

Are women first to be sacked?

AT WORK: DISCRIMINATION

By Margaret Drummond

The Sex Discrimination Act, for so long the butt of feeble jokes about lady plumbers and chairpersons, is showing its teeth on the work front. It may not have improved women's accessibility to jobs — traditional job segregation on the factory floor seems as rigid as ever — but the SDA may help women keep their jobs in a recession that has taken a proportionately higher toll of female workers.

Two weeks ago Mrs Elizabeth Dicks, a part time scientific researcher at Dundee University, won her case against redundancy before an industrial tribunal. Backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, Mrs Dicks claimed unfair dismissal and sex discrimination after the university axed her part time job following government spending cuts. Central to her case was the argument that reundancy programmes cutting part time jobs first amounted to indirect sex discrimination because most of these jobs are held by women.

Her success followed another case where the National Council for Civil Liberties won a significant victory when and industrial tribunal held that the traditional practice of making part time workers redundant first was illegal under the Sex Discrimination Act.

Sandra Powell and Brenda Clarke were among the part time workers, all women, made redundant last Autumn at the Eley Kynoch factory in Birmingham. The redundancy agreement between the employers and the union was that part timers should go first.

If a "last in, first out" selection had been applied to the whole workforce the



Women's rights are slow to filter through to the shop floor

women would not have been made redundant although *some* full timers, including women workers, would have lost their jobs instead. The tribunal found this form of redundancy agreement in breach of the Sex Discrimination Act.

Sandra Powell was reinstated in her job because she had a young child and was unable to take a full time job. But Mrs Clarke, who had no dependant children, lost her job and is appealing.

But the general principle arising from this case has important implications for the country's 4 million part

ignore this. Some agreements were made a long time ago when women's earnings were regarded as pin money. Male time workers, 87 per cent of whom are women, whose jobs have been particularly vunerable because many union agreements involve shedding part time labour first.

Ann Sedley of the National Council for Civil Liberties says:"These agreements are very, very widespread in industry at the moment. In 1980 the TUC suggested that part time workers should not be discriminated against. But many local agreements just

full timers tend to be in control of the unions anyway.

It is well known that women do not participate so keenly in union matters because most of them have a family at home to look after as well as a job. These redundancy agreements have now been declared unlawful and they should be re-negotiated.

Few women know that they may be able to secure redress for their alleged breaches of their rights and even fewer are prepared to run what some see as the gauntlet of diehard male chauvinism on the shop floor. But many more are getting militant about it as redundancy becomes a harsh fact of life.

The Equal Opportunities Commission says that one in ten of the complaints it is now receiving are from women facing redundancy. And half of them are part time workers. The EOC suspects this is only the tip of the iceberg. It is impossible to know how many part time workers may have fallen foul of illegal redundancy agreements since the start of the recession.

It is easy to see why the TUC is ducking the issue despite the clear message of the court cases. The old idea of the man as breadwinner dies hard despite the fact that most families need a second wage these days. But much more disturbing is a suggestion that even full time women workers may be discriminated against through redundancy agreements that adopt a "lastin, firstout" basis in individual sections rather than across the board.

With many factories still effectively divided between "men's jobs" and "women's jobs" the EOC claims these agreements means women out first.

A classic example was the recent problems at the Hoover factory in Merthyr Tydfil where this type of redundancy agreement applied to a near medieval system of job demarcation between the sexes so that a third of the women, but less than 10 per cent of the men in the same semi-skilled grades, stood to lose their jobs. On a straight "lastin, firstout" principle most of the women's jobs would have been safe.

Threats to take the matter to court under the Sex Discrimination Act resulted in the Hoover management shelving redundancies for six months and forced the union to negotiate a new non-discriminatory union agreement.

The question of whether these kind of redundancy agreements amount to discrimination is being put to the test by another case backed by the EOC. Four women workers at the Kraft factory at Kirby, near Liverpool, alleged sex discrimination in their selection for redundancy.

Their case, which highlights the Byzantine complexity of demarcation practices on the factory floor has been heard by an industrial tribunal and the judgement is eagerly awaited.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crds	14%
C. Hoare & Co	*14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams & Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 12¼%, up to £50,000 13%, over £50,000 13¼%.

Business Editor

Lesson from Carr Sebag

If ever there was a glaring pointer to the problems facing the medium-sized stockbroker with rapidly rising costs, then Exco's effective capital injection into Carr Sebag is it.

Since Christmas Carr Sebag has been casting around for more cash, which at one stage seemed likely to come from one institution and to be put into the business as a whole. Merchant bankers, champing at the bit, were ruled out because of a possible conflict of interest. The Stock Exchange would doubtless have had a view on their gaining a physical attachment to brokers anyway.

In the end Carr Segbag's survival had been at the expense of selling off one of the most profitable parts of the business. The question now is whether the cash to be received is enough. The firm says it is, though whether existing partners *have* had to, or may have to, put up more capital is not clear.

Under-capitalized stockbroking firms is not a new problem. But it is significant that there are now renewed rumblings about increasing the equity level allowed to be in outside hands by 20 per cent to almost a third.

The Council has so far stuck out against having an outside institution with limited liability coming in as major shareholders of a partnership where houses, cars and boats are on line when things go wrong.

The crashes of brokers Norman Collins and Hedderwick Stirling Grumbar last year, and the problems of Carr's with the New Year barely a month old, could well be mellowing their attitude. Medium-sized brokers know only too well that they may be first in the firing line during the eighties; and the problems that have arisen the Carr Sebag merger may well force them to recognise that mergers between themselves are not necessarily the right route to escape their quandary.

Disappointing

Money supply

Financial markets are much more relaxed about the monthly Briish money supply figures these days — in strong contrast to their paranoid obsession with the weekly American money supply figures.

But even the City was none too happy with yesterday's preliminary estimate from the Bank of England that sterling M3, the broad measure of banking money, may have risen by 1¼-1¾ per cent in the January banking month.

What the increase means is that the annualized rate of growth since last February, the base month for the present targeting period, has moved up from 15¼ per cent in mid-December to 15¾ per cent in mid-January.

The December and January banking months are, of course, rather odd, one being exceptionally short, the other rather longer than usual. Even so, the average rate of growth over the two months of close on 1 per cent is less than encouraging.

Domestic monetary considerations and the dollar exchange rate may argue for interest rate caution, but sterling's unwanted strength against other European currencies seemingly calls for a different course.

PSBR 'Leverettes'

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor, should find instructive bedside reading during his pre-budget purdah. "Inside the Treasury," the new book by Joel Barnett, former chief secretary to the treasury recounts some of the 'ripping wheezes' devised by Lord Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, during the 1974-79 Labour Government, to conjure a smaller public sector borrowing requirement.

Sir Geoffrey will no doubt breathe a sigh of recognition when he reads that those "four damned letters - the PSBR - 'baffled and dominated' the Labour Government, leading to repeated attempts to find costless means of cutting the published total.

Such wheezes, some of which were apparently nicknamed 'Leverettes' after their devisor, included the refinancing of export credits by banks and the replacement of local authority mortgage lending by building societies. The result was to wipe hundreds of millions of pounds off public spending on paper, simply by transferring obligations to the private sector.

Magical conjuring tricks have great appeal to the present Government too. But their sleight of hand has been less expert. They are busy transferring not only public liabilities but public assets as well to private hands.

Some, such as the proposed sale of BNOC's oil producing assets, will, perversely, increase the PSBR by stemming the flow of profits to the Exchequer.

If Sir Geoffrey sees Mr Barnett's book as a source of ideas for more 'ripping wheezes' he will not have learnt his lesson well.

The moral must surely be the idiocy of using as a target of policy a number which has little meaning for real economic activity, which can be manipulated merely by definitional shifts between public and private sectors, and which fails utterly to distinguish between capital spending that is matched by the acquisition of assets and current spending, which is not.

It is to Mr Barnett's credit that he reveals the massaging of PSBR numbers for the sham that it is. Will Mr Leon Brittan, his Conservative successor have the courage to do the same?

Car industry

A long haul

The year came in with a whimper in the car-making business, as yesterday's vehicle production figures issued by the Department of Industry indicate. Output of only 71,000 United Kingdom cars, similar to the depressed level a year earlier, hardly gives rise to hopes of recovery.

Like some other sectors, however, the motor industry seems confident that it has at last hit the bottom of the recession. Car output last year at 918,000 was a mere 6,000 down on 1930, a far cry from the declines averaging 150,000 cars in the previous two years.

But it is clearly going to be a long, slow haul as the United Kingdom car-makers continue to grapple with eroded international competitiveness which is hitting exports and giving comfort to the importers. The heady days of 1976, when United Kingdom car factories produced 1,333,000 vehicles, will probably never be matched.

The Society of Motor Manufaturers and Traders is predicting that this year's production will rise to about 980,000 but this remains small beer compared with forecasts of 3.5m in West Germany, 2.8m in France, 1.4m in Italy and 6.5m in Japan.

BL, which claims to be on the road to recovery, is budgeting for output of 500,000 cars this year — strikes and other disruptions permitting — with Sir Michael Edwardes, in his last year as chairman, presiding over the introduction of 10 new models and Land Rovers, including four new derivatives of the Metro.

BL and its arch rival, Ford, are struggling to reduce costs in the hope of meeting European productivity standards and capturing more of this year's United Kingdom market which is expected to rise to at least 1.52m from last year's 1.48m. Both will also welcome any crumbs thrown from the Chancellor's Budget box next month.

Stock Exchange Prices

Further falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 25. Dealings End Feb 12. § Contango Day, Feb 15. Settlement Day, Feb 22

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS

[illegible]

MEDIUMS

[illegible]

LONGS

[illegible]

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

[illegible]

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

[illegible]

DOLLAR STOCKS

[illegible]

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

[illegible]

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

[illegible]

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A — B

[illegible]

C — E

[illegible]

F — H

[illegible]

I — L

[illegible]

M — N

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]					
29	18	McInerney Prop	27	..	2.2	8.2	6.3
63	25	Mackay H.	46	..	5.2	11.2	16.8
127	85	McKechnie Bros	108	-3	10.4	9.6	8.7
85	56	Macpherson D.	80	-6	6.0	7.5	30.2
174	108	Magnet & S'thns	153	• ..	7.1	4.7	10.9
117	97	Man Agcy Music	115	+1	12.5	10.9	9.8
103	100	Man Ship Canal	105	-3	..•	..	..
35	31	Mang Bronze	30	..	3.1	10.3	..
154	72	Marchwiel	135	-1	8.6	6.3	..
145	106	Marks & Spencer	128	-2	5.8	4.2	18.8
51	33½	Marley Ltd	41½	-1	3.2	7.2	12.4
37	14½	Marling Ind	36	-1	1.4	3.9	25.2
50	22	Marshall T Lox	50	..	4.0	7.0	4.5
48	21	Do A	48	..	4.0	8.3	4.3
295	178	Martin News	235	+5	13.9	4.7	6.4
270	209	Martonair	221	-5	10.9	4.9	12.9
74	48	Medminster	63	..	5.3	7.8	7.3
250	140	Menzies J.	235	-3	5.6	2.4	11.7
224	128	Metal Box	182	-4	16.5	9.1	16.0
52¾	37¼	Metalrax	43	..	3.1	7.3	7.0
25	12	Mettoy	14	..	0.1	1.0	..

O — S

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]					
118	88	Stonehill	88	-4	12.1	13.8	30.2
28	9	Stone Platt	14	+½	..	..	..
33	18	Streeters	24	-1	..	..	6.9
68	46	Strong & Fisher	54	-3	7.1	13.2	..
110	79	Sunlight Serv	104	-1	3.6	3.5	8.6
52	37	Sutcliffe S'man	42	..	..•	..	..
188	92½	Swire Pacific 'A'	94½	-3			
195	140	Syltone	195	..	12.9	6.6	21.6

T — Z

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
26	15	TACE	20	..	..•	..	6.0
121	83	TSL Therm Synd	88	-2	10.0	11.4	4.8
35¼	10¾	Takeda BDR	£24¼	-⅛	17.6	0.7	26.6
6½	2¾	Talbex Grp	4½				
440	316	Tarmac Ltd	428	-7	23.3	5.4	7.4
220	128	Tate & Lyle	210	-3	16.4	7.8	5.6
607	441	Taylor Woodrow	580	..	19.0	3.3	10.3
400	250	Telephone Rent	353	-6	14.6	4.1	17.6

[illegible]

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

[illegible]

INSURANCE

[illegible]

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

SHIPPING

[illegible]

MINES

[illegible]

OIL

[illegible]

PROPERTY

[illegible]

RUBBER

[illegible]

TEA

[illegible]

MISCELLANEOUS

1981/82 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
46	27½	Calcutta Elec	43	..	8.8	20.4	..
34½	29	Essex Wtr 3.5%	£23	..	500	15.2	..
34	30	Gt Nthn Telg	£33	..	150	4.5	12.4
265	150	Imp Cont Gas	204	-6	11.9	5.8	12.9
156	93	Milford Docks	156	-2	0.7	0.5	..
193	122	Nesco Inv	135	..	10.0	7.4	..
35	28½	Sunderlnd Wtr	£33	..	500	15.2	..

• Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

RECENT ISSUES

	Closing Price
A and G Sec Elect 5p Ord (80a)	81-1
Baillie Gifford Japan Trust 25p Ord (100)	96-1
City Site 25p Ord (35a)	38
Computer and Systems Eng 20p Ord (225)	250
Cussins Property Group 20p Ord (82)	84
Equipu 10p Ord (80a)	83
Good Relations Group 10p Ord (61a)	69
Hardanger Properties 10p Ord (100a)	89
Haslers £1 Ord (150a)	105-2
Moray Firth Exp	[illegible]
Newmarket Co (1981) Ltd $0.05 (£3.00)	172-3
Nimslo Int 0.20 Ord (54.25a)	16½
Owners Abroad 10p Ord (10a)	12
Peck Holings 7p Ord	53
Saxon Oil 50p Ord (12½p paid)	120-1
Speyhawk 10p Ord (115)	34
Television South 10p Ord NV (ak)	125
Do 14.20%, 1985-88 Ln (ak)	50½
Treasury 3% 1987	[illegible]
Treasury 2½% Index Linked 2011 (†1)	[illegible]

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renun	
Davy Corp (140‡)	Mar 10	20 prem-3
Glass Glover (35‡)	Mar 3	61 prem
Lovell Y. J. (220‡)		47 prem-4
MEPC (168‡)	Mar 23	32 prem
Smith St. Aubyn (25‡)	..	10 prem-1

Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend. † Issued by tender. ‡ Nil paid. a unlisted securities market. b. £10 paid. f fully paid. g £40 paid. h £50 paid. i £35 paid. j £25 paid. k Issued in units of sixteen shares and £5 nominal loan stock at £9 per unit.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) February 9	Market rates (close) February 9	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.8365-8575	$1.8415-8425	0.20-0.30c disc	0.74-0.84c disc
Montreal	$2.2320-2520	$2.2405-2415	0.12-0.22c disc	0.53-0.62c disc
Amsterdam	4.77-84fl	4.79¾-80¾fl	1¼-1¼c prem	5-4½c prem
Brussels	74.20-75.05f	74.25-35f	15-36c disc	65-85c disc
Copenhagen	14.29-43k	14.31-32k	215-305ore disc	615-765ore disc
Dublin	1.2390-2500p	1.2420-2435p	30-45p disc	115-135p disc
Frankfurt	4.36-41m	4.37¼-38¼m	1½-1¼pf prem	4½-4¼pf prem
Lisbon	127.50-128.75e	127.75-95e	50-170c disc	160-425c disc
Madrid	184.25-186.00p	184.40-60p	10-40c disc	80-110c disc
Milan	2329-52lr	2333½-35½lr	12½-15½lr disc	43½-47½lr disc
Oslo	10.98-11.08k	10.98-99k	200-90ore prem	200-90ore prem
Paris	11.08-19f	11.10-11f	½-1½c disc	2½-3½c disc
Stockholm	11.62-72k	10.62¾-63¾k	55 prem-15ore disc	325-255ore prem
Tokyo	434-44y	435-36y	2.85-2.50y prem	8.70-8.35y prem
Vienna	30.55-95sch	30.65-70sch	15-10gro prem	40-30gro prem
Zurich	3.50-54f	3.52-53f	2-1½c prem	5½-5¼c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to 1975, was down 0.4 at 9.15

Money Market Rates

Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%

Discount Mkt Loans%
Overnight: High 14½ Low 13

Week Fixed: 14½-14

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	13²⁵⁄₃₂	2 months	13¹¹⁄₁₆
3 months	13¹¹⁄₁₆	3 months	13⁹⁄₁₆

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

1 month	13¹⁵⁄₁₆-13⅞	1 month	14⅞
2 months	13⅞-13²⁵⁄₃₂	2 months	14¾
3 months	13⅞-13¹³⁄₁₆	3 months	14½
6 months	13¾-13⁷⁄₁₆	6 months	14¼

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	15¼-15	7 months	14½-14⅛
2 months	15⅛-14⅞	8 months	14½-14⅛
3 months	15-14¾	9 months	15-14¾
4 months	15-14¾	10 months	15-14¾
5 months	14¾-14½	11 months	15-14¾
6 months	14½-14¼	12 months	14⅞-14⅝

Secondary Mkt. £CD Rates (%)

1 month	14¾-14½	6 months	14¾-14½
3 months	14¹¹⁄₁₆-14⁹⁄₁₆	12 months	14⅝-14½

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	14⅛	3 months	14½
7 days	14⅜	6 months	14⁷⁄₁₆
1 month	14⁷⁄₁₆	1 year	14½

Interbank Market (%)

Overnight: Open 14½ Close 11

1 week	14½	6 months	14½
1 month	14⅝	9 months	14⅝
3 months	14⅝	12 months	14⅝

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)

3 months 15¼ 6 months 15½

Finance House Base Rate 15½%

Other Markets

Australia	1.6675-1.6825
Bahrein	0.6930-0.6960
Finland	8.2730-8.3130
Greece	111.60-113.60
Hongkong	10.8010-10.8410
Iran	not available
Kuwait	0.5240-0.5270
Malaysia	4.2650-4.2950
Mexico	48.80-50.30
New Zealand	2.3080-2.3280
Saudi Arabia	6.2990-6.3190
Singapore	3.8875-3.9175
South Africa	1.8035-1.8185

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.4800-1.4820
† Canada	1.2166-1.2168
Netherlands	2.6000-2.6040
Belgium	40.40-40.45
Denmark	7.7700-7.7800
West Germany	2.3745-2.3760
Portugal	69.30-69.50
Spain	100.15-100.35
Italy	1266.50-1267.50
Norway	5.9650-5.9750
France	6.0200-6.0250
Sweden	5.7700-5.7800
Japan	234.40-236.55
Austria	16.63-16.65
Switzerland	1.9100-1.9130

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
+ Canada $1 : US $0.8222-0.8224

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 14¼-15¼; seven days, 15⁷⁄₁₆-15¹¹⁄₁₆; one month, 15¾-16; three months, 16⁷⁄₁₆-16⁹⁄₁₆; six months, 16⅜-16⅝.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $378 (an ounce); pm, $378.60 close, $379.50.
Krugerrand (per coin): $390-392 (£211.40-212.40).
Sovereigns (new): $92.5-93.5 (£50.15-50.65).

Rugby Union: England captain's enforced decision to quit stuns colleagues

Beaumont retires to avoid risk of serious injury

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

The rugby world was stunned yesterday by the news that Bill Beaumont had played his last game, although it had been half-expected by those closest to the English camp. It could not staunch the flow of tributes coming in from every quarter to a man who holds a very special place in the affection of his players, their supporters and a wider public to whom this respected character has become so familiar and popular a figure.

England's captain made his decision after a leading neurologist had given him an exhaustive, five-hour examination and then declared that if he suffered another kick to the same spot on his head as that which he received in the county final 10 days ago, it could result in serious damage.

"Basically", Beaumont said, "I was passed 100 per cent fit, with just a few signs of wear and tear. That tied in with the medical verdict after I'd had a similar injury in France last summer, when I was told that I had the neck of a 40-year-old. But now, I was given advice to quit the game at once. Another crack in the same place might never happen, but when you are an international lock there's an obvious risk."

That Beaumont has taken the only possible decision no one in his right mind will dispute. Of all the tributes paid to him yesterday, no one has encapsulated the general feeling better than his forceful Lancashire president, John Burgess, who said: "I feel quite emotional. Bill Beaumont as a man and a player, in that order, is the best thing to have happened to rugby in my county and England for as long as I can remember. This is a very sad day, but the most important thing is his health and family. Thank goodness he has made the decision now".

Beaumont himself is thankful that the decision could be made without undue delay, and bows out with the consolation "of having done almost everything a player hopes to achieve when he sets out on a rugby career. I've made some lifelong friends, which is one of the joys of the game".

Aged 29, he won the first of his 34 caps (the last 33 of them in succession), against Ireland in 1975, and how vividly I remember his heroic performance in Brisbane when he got his second, against Australia, later that year. Having retired with an extremely nasty head wound requiring many stitches, he came back, swathed in bandages, to take Mike Burton's place at tight head prop. One knew then, that this was a very special man from Fylde.

Beaumont first played for his beloved Lancashire in 1973; flew out in 1977 as a most successful replacement for the Lions, to play in the last three internationals against New Zealand; inspired the North to a famous victory over the All Blacks at Otley in 1979, and England to a grand slam in 1980; captained the Lions in South Africa in the same year; led England for the 21st time, comfortably a record, when playing his last international, against Scotland in January; and, finally, played all but half the game when Lancashire beat North Midlands in the final at Moseley the other day.

In the New Year's honours list he was awarded, to universal pleasure, the OBE for services to rugby. There is not much doubt, given fitness and retention of form, that, come the summer of 1983, he would have been the first man to captain two Lions sides.

He asserts, and nobody will disbelieve him, that he wants to get back into things and "give a little bit to help the game that has given him so much". His influence whether as coach, selector, administrator or high alickadoo (and who can doubt that one day William Blackledge Beaumont will be president of the RFU?) will be down to earth, pervasive, inspiring and wholly beneficial.

Beaumont has been a quite outstanding, fearless lock forward whose consistency of commitment and performance never wavered, and a magnificent leader of men who would have gone through hell and high water for him. His attitude to rugby, and the way he played it in the hardest and yet the most chivalrous fashion, was a shining advertisement for all that is best in a great game.

A man of the most genuine modesty, he always gave credit to others. I do not think he has an enemy in the world, only a legion of admirers. With that lived-in face, that unfailingly buoyant good humour—and that flat cap worn when an unwilling spectator at Twickenham last Saturday—he has been a charismatic, lovable character whose impact on the wider public has been greater than at any time since Gareth Edwards retired.

☐ Steve Bainbridge, the Gosforth and Northumberland lock, will win his first cap as Beaumont's replacement for England against France in Paris on Saturday week. Steve Smith continues as captain, the Press Association reports.

Phil Blakeway, the Gloucester prop said: "I have had my share of neck troubles over the years and you take medical advice without argument, as Bill has done. I was lucky enough to get the OK. Bill has been unlucky and rugby has lost a great player and a great man."

Fran Cotton, the former Sale prop, played with Beaumont for the British Lions and in 18 England internationals, Exchange Telegraph reports. "It is not just a sad loss for English rugby, but for the game worldwide" Cotton said.

Steve Smith, the current England captain, said: "I spoke to Billy just before he went for the tests yesterday and there was no thought in his mind of having to call it a day. He thought he was just going to get a second opinion. He is probably the last of the nice guys—a totally honest man. He was just the same whether he was leading England out or speaking to a bunch of schoolkids."

Andy Irvine, Scotland's captain, described Beaumont as "The best captain I have ever played under. He was as brave as they come and was a damned good all-round player."



Packing up his troubles: Beaumont put on a cheerful face yesterday at the Chorley textile firm where he is a director.

French make wholesale team changes

By David Hands

It is one of life's ironies that, no more than four years ago Ireland and Scotland (and England, too) were spoken of somewhat disparagingly as the second division sides in the international championship. But the immediate focus of the current championship is Dublin on February 20 when Scotland will attempt to prevent Ireland from winning their first triple crown in 33 years.

Yesterday Scotland announced a XV unchanged from that which drew 9—9 with England last month, to meet the Irish at Lansdowne Road. The Irish hope to confirm their team today but it can hardly differ from that which overcame England at Twickenham last Saturday.

Already Ireland's current internationals have been asked to rest this weekend, to avoid the risk of injury in club games. Scotland, too, must have been reasonably content with players who have been able to create an excellent spirit during last summer's tour to New Zealand and internationals against Romania and Australia this season, as well as the game with England. Their forwards went well against England and the collision with the Irish pack will be an occasion for strong men to savour; the Scottish backs have not yet revealed their full potential but may have that opportunity in Dublin.

If all that seems decently predictable, so was the expectation that France would come up with something a bit different after their disappointing showing against Wales last Saturday. Quite rightly, the black spot has been placed on the forwards and a wholesale change for the game against England in Paris on February 20 has left only Rives the captain, and Dintrans in the positions they occupied in Cardiff.

The most distinguished casualty is Paparemborde, who has won 38 caps, a record for a French prop forward. The shopkeeper from Pau, who is also on the executive committee of the French federation, began the season as captain of France in the absence of Rives but success against Romania was followed by two defeats against New Zealand, and subsequently Wales.

To replace a player generally regarded as one of the best tight-head props in the world the French have called upon Daniel Dubroca, aged 27, from Agen who played in the second international against New Zealand in November as a replacement. He is joined in the front row by Jean-Pierre Wolff (Beziers) who replaces Cremaschi, too frequently the guilty party in the string of penalties awarded against France last Saturday.

In the second row Revallier and Lorieux are dropped and replaced by Michel Carpentier (Lourdes) and Laurent Rodriguez, who played No. 8 against Wales and moved up and down the line out like a yo-yo in an effort to combat Welsh supremacy in that area.

The most distinguished casualty occurs in the back row where Jean-Luc Joinel (Brive) returns. He will play at No. 8 with Rives on one flank and the only new Cap Eric Buchet on the other. Buchet (Nice) must have created a good impression in the 44—4 defeat of Scotland-B on Sunday when he scored two tries.

Wolff, the loose-head, was capped as a young, very inexperienced forward on the French tour to South Africa in 1980. He is still only 21 and Blakeway will aim to improve his rugby education.

SCOTLAND: A R Irvine (Heriot's FP, capt); K W Robertson (Melrose), J M Renwick (Hawick), D I Johnston (Watsonians), G R T Baird (Kelso); J Y Rutherford (Selkirk), R J Laidlaw (Jedforest); J Aitken (Gala), C T Deans (Hawick), I J Milne (Heriot's FP), J H Calder (Stewart's Melville), W Cuthbertson (Kilmarnock), A J Tomes (Hawick), I A M Paxton (Selkirk), D G Leslie (Gala). Replacements: G M McGuinness (West of Scotland), R Cunningham (Bath), D B White (Gala), B M Gossman (West of Scotland), B Hunter (Selkirk), B H Hay (Boroughmuir).

FRANCE: M Sallefranque (Dax); L Pardo (Bayonne), P Perrier (Bayonne), C Belascain (Bayonne), S Blanco (Biarritz); J-P Lescarboura (Dax), G Martinez (Toulouse); J-P Wolff (Beziers), P Dintrans (Tarbes), D Dubroca (Agen), J-P Rives (Toulouse, capt), M Carpentier (Lourdes), L Rodriguez (Mont-de-Marsan), E Buchet (Nice), J-L Joinel (Brive). Replacements: R Paparemborde (Pau), D Revallier (Graulhet), P Mesny (Grenoble), S Gabernet (Toulouse), P Berbizier (Lourdes).

Ice skating

Championships go on in spite of threat

Copenhagen, Feb 9.—Whether or not there will be television coverage of the 1982 World Figure Skating Championships, due to open near Copenhagen on March 9, is still far from certain. Finn Olsen, however, chairman of the organizing Danish Skating Union, vowed on Tuesday that the event would be held there even if a wage dispute involving Danish television technicians prevents TV coverage.

At the same time, talks continued between Denmark's publicly controlled television monopoly and its technicians' unions in an effort to prevent a threatened lockout that could shut down all Danish electronic media from March 1.

If that happens, Mr Olsen said, the DSU and the International Skating Union stand to lose $200,000 in television rights and advertising revenues. "I discussed the situation with the ISU people when I was in Lyon for the European Cahmpionships, and they said they were definitely not considering moving the world championships," Mr Olsen said. The European event ended last weekend.

"The decision whether to go ahead with the championships is the DSU's alone", Mr Olsen said. "I'm optimistic and we're proceeding as planned."

Radio Denmark, which was to televise the event for networks in Europe, North America and Japan, has threatened to lock out more than 950 employees from March 1 if the two sides cannot agree on cost-of-living increases that went into effect in January.

More than 150 skaters from 30 countries are expected for the championships which last from March 9 to 14. The dispute is just one more headache for sports organizers trying to establish Denmark as a suitable venue for international events.

Organizers of this country's first Grand Prix tennis tournament are under pressure to cancel the $170,000 Danish Indoor Championships because Kjeld Olesen, the Foreign Minister, has blocked entry visas for South African players.

But both the International Tennis Federation and the players' Association of Tennis Professionals, agreed to give the Danish organizers time to try to convince the government that professional tennis players represent themselves and not countries. Representatives of the Men's International Professional Tennis Council said they would consider revoking the tournament's Grand Prix rating if the Danish Government persists in its ban.—AP.

Student rugby

Cup final looks like being the same again

The British Polytechnics' Cup, sponsored by *Rugby World*, reaches the semi-final stage today with every chance of last year's finalists emerging once again. Wales, the holders, meet North Staffordshire at Sutton Coldfield and Bristol, last season's beaten finalists, face Leeds at Stratford upon Avon.

Wales pin their hopes on a tenacious pack and the experience behind the scrum of three players who have appeared in the Wales B squad. These are Walsh, the full back, Yeandle, the wing, and Gosling, the centre. But they are without their injured captain Evans.

In the other match, Bristol field five forwards who have appeared in the British Polytechnics representative side and they are led by Mills, a prop.

Neither of the remaining semi-finalists should be discounted, though. Both North Staffordshire and Leeds have recently benefited from amalgamation with leading Physical Education colleges, the former with Madeley College and the latter with Carnegie College.

Durham rely on a prop from Paris

By Our Sports Staff

Durham and Exeter universities are favourites to qualify for the finals of the UAU championship from today's semi-finals. Durham meet Manchester (2.15) at York University and Exeter take on Lancaster, the surprise package this season, at the Wast Hills Ground, Redhill Road, Birmingham (2.30).

Durham beat Manchester 12—7 at the same stage of the competition last season. Simon Henderson, the Rosslyn Park and Surrey prop, will be flown from Paris, where he is studying languages as part of his Durham course. His substantial presence made a significant impact in the quarter finals.

Durham will rely on the kicking skills of Nick Chesworth, of Bedford and Eastern Counties, and the fleet-footed running of Mark Bailey, who played on the wing for London against the Wallabies.

Exeter have scored 247 points in six games in the championship (including 90 against Southampton). They have appeared in two out of the last three finals but lost both.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

This table is published on Wednesday and Saturday

1981/82 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Football

Liverpool reach Wembley again

Liverpool 2 Ipswich 2

For 75 minutes it seemed that the formalities and Ipswich were being executed at Anfield, and for the third time in a week Liverpool were showing swaggering superiority. Then Ipswich scored two goals in five minutes, through Gates and Brazil, made a game of it at last, and left the field with much of their shattered confidence repaired. Liverpool won 4—2 on aggregate.

Ipswich, without the heart of their defence in Butcher and Osman, recalled the Northern Ireland veteran Alan unter, with McCall at left-back, and Brazil given another chance in the attack. Quite early on Town wasted a good chance when Gates blasted wide as Muhren's corner was headed-on by Borley, ad Gates taken this chance a different complexion might have been placed on the game, with Ipswich given fleeting hope of a totally unexpected reversal of form.

After this momentary lapse, the Liverpool defence took charge of the first half, comfortably containing an Ipswich attack.

Liverpool seemed in no hurry to get the inevitable goal and much of their approach work was slipshod by their own excitingly high standards. However, the goal came when Dalglish moved in from the left and placed a perfect pass on to the left foot of Rush who, with Cooper stranded, stroked the ball into the net.

The plight of Ipswich was cruelly underlined when a passing move on the halfway line found such an impentrable wall of red shirts that eventually the ball had to be worked back to the goalkeeper. When this happened several times more the Kop chorussed scathingly about it.

Liverpool assumed such arrogant self-assurance, teasing the Ipswich defence with effortless passing, that the exuberantly cheerful Kop supporters chanted "now give us a handstand". Liverpool understandably gave the impression that they could conjure up a goal any time one became necessary, and Lee could have set up one or two with bettr crosss from the wide open spaces on the Liverpool right.

A brief spurt of life came from Ipswich when Turner, substituting for Thijssen, interpassed with Gates and Grobbelaar was stretched for the first time as a low a low drive from Gates skille low drive from Gates skimmed across the six-yard line. Towards half-time Mills produced some neat touches and Ipswich briefly threatened the Liverpool goal, but the red shirts hardly had to break sweat to keep out the threat.

At half-time Liveropol were one up, and three goals ahead over both legs, and Wembley was again beckoning the European champions. Assurance was made doubly sure when McDermott sent in a corner from the right and Dalglish, totally unmarked, was able to bullet his header past Cooper without the slightest hindrance.

LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar; P Neal, M Lawrenson, A Kennedy, R Whelan, A Hanson, K Dalglish, S Lee, I Rush, T McDermott, G Souness.
IPSWICH TOWN: P Cooper; G Burley, S McCall, M Mills, F Thijssen (sub R Turner), A Hunter, J Wark, A Muhren, K O'Callaghan, A Brazil, E Gates.
Referee: L C Shapter (Torquay).

Saunders resigns from Aston Villa

Ron Saunders last night resigned as the manager of league champions Aston Villa. Mr Saunders, who was involved in a row at the weekend when the board varied the terms of his contract, had collapsed earlier after a training session.

He said at his home last night: "If I am employed to be manager of a football club I do not expect to be the office boy."

Mr Saunders was the Manager of the Year last season, when Villa won the championship for the first time for 71 years, but they have slipped into the relegation zone this season. The board of directors have adjusted the terms of Mr Saunders's contract eliminating the "roll-over" clause which guaranteed him three years' severance pay if he left the club. He has been at Villa Park since June 1974.

For today's home game against the first division leaders, Southampton. McNaught will return in defence after five months of knee and calf problems and Williams is set to replace left-back Gibson, who has a groin strain. Shaw, the striker, is out with a knee injury and Morley, the winger, is suspended.

Withe, the striker, is under threat, having failed to score in six games since returning from suspension. Donovan is included in the squad.

Southampton will be without Moran, who has a back injury.

Aston Villa will play their European Cup quarter-final first leg match against the Soviet champions Dinamo Kiev on March 3 in Kiev or Simferopol. If there is snow in Kiev, the game will go to Simferopol, were the climate is milder.

□ Chris Garland, one of the players dismissed by Bristol City, is joining fourth division Bournemouth as a non-contract player. The Bournemouth manager is David Webb, who was his teammate at Chelsea. Garland could be joined by Charlie George.

George, formerly with Arsenal, Derby County and Southampton, is back in this country after an unsuccessful spell in Hongkong, and is considering joining Mr Webb's squad.—Agencies.

□ Coventry City will increase all prices by £1 for their FA Cup match against Oxford United but will waive the increase for season ticket holders of both clubs. Those who can produce tickets for Coventry's home game tomorrow against Brighton and Hove Albion and Oxford's match against Reading next Wednesday, will also be able to purchase a cup ticket at the normal price.

Coventry's home match against Sunderland, postponed from February 13 because of the Oxford cup-tie, will now be played on February 23.

Brentford have made their chief administrator Denis Piggott redundant for economy reasons. Piggott has been with the club for nearly 36 years and in appreciation of his long service he is being granted a testimonial match.

Piggott, who holds a long-service award from the Football League, played a big part in helping Brentford to ward off a proposed takeover by Queen's Park Rangers in 1967. For this the board upgraded him to general manager.

New League honour for Sir Matt

Sir Matt Busby has been elected a vice-president to the Football League. The League President Jack Dunnett said: "The decision of the management committee to appoint Sir Matt was, not surprisingly, unanimous. Not only is Sir Matt the senior member of the management committee, he is the most prestigious figure in British football.

"His achievements have never been equalled. Nobody else in football has ever served the game as player, manager, director and member of the league's management committee.

"Because of the basic integrity of the man, the management committee and the staff of the Football League are delighted that he has decided to accept the office."

Sir Matt aged 71, is the successor as league vice-president to the late Bob Lord of Burnley. He said: "I am very honoured, so much so that I had to have time to think about it. Now that I have accepted, I am looking forward to the job. It is another new challenge, and at my time of life challenges are good for me. But I feel very proud, because it is an honour for Manchester United, too."

Under Sir Matt, United became the first English club to win the European Cup in 1968.

He will be guest of honour at the League Cup final at Wembley in March.

Welsh juniors prepare to take on France

Peter Nicholas captains a powerful-looking Welsh squad for the under-21 international against France in Troyes on February 24. The Arsenal midfield man, aged 22, is one of two over-age members of the manager Mike England's 16-strong selection.

The other is Swansea City's utility player, Charles, kept out of the senior side this season by knee trouble. Rush, Liverpool's striker, and the Everton full back Ratcliffe are other full caps playing for the junior team as Wales look towards the 1984 European championships.

The Cardiff City player Micallef scored both goals when Wales beat France 2—0 at Newport in October and now has another chance to press his claims for a place in the full squad.

The Swansea City pair Lewis and Marustik are seeking a similar chance, while the Fulham defender Hopkins and Leeds United striker Balcombe are included for the first time.

SQUAD: R Wilmot (Arsenal), C Pearce (Blackburn Rovers), J Jones (Cardiff City), J Hopkins (Fulham), J Charles, D Lewis (Swansea City), K Ratcliffe (Everton), D Pugh (Doncaster Rovers), A Davies (Manchester United), P Nicholas (Arsenal), C Marustik (Swansea City), I Rush (Liverpool), T Micallef, T Maddy (Cardiff City), S Balcombe (Leeds United), F Giles (Cardiff City).

A meeting of the creditors of Bristol City Football Club Limited will take place in Bristol on Feb 17.



Galvin: two-match ban and penalty points to spare

We'll bury the hatchet say Spurs and Albion

Tottenham Hotspur and West Bromwich Albion have promised that there will be no vendettas carried into tomorrow's League Cup semi-final second leg at White Hart Lane.

Albion's Martin Jol and Tottenham's Tony Galvin were sent off after a clash near the end of last week's goalless first leg, and five other players had their names booked.

But Spurs' manager Keith Burkinshaw said today: "It is all forgotten now, and we haven't mentioned the bookings ni any of our team talks this week."

Albion captain John Wile said, "I cannot see there being any grudges harboured. Both sides appreciate that a number of the bookings were unnecessary."

Jol could miss the match anyway because of a leg injury, but he learned today that his sending off will bring only a one-game suspension. Galvin, however, who is fit again after a knee injury, will be banned for two matches.

Sunderland referee George Tyson told the Football Association that Jol's sending off was for persistent misconduct, an offence which carries only a one-game sentence. Galvin's offence, however, was violent conduct, and that carries an automatic two-match ban. He also retains four penalty points for a foul tackle earlier in the Albion game.

The suspensions start on February 17, and that could rule the pair out of possible Fifth Round FA Cup replays. Otherwise, Galvin will miss league games against Aston Villa and Manchester City, with Jol ruled out of Albion's game against Everton.

Neville Ashley, of Nantwich, will referee tomorrow's game, although the Football League were careful to stress that Tyson had not been "dropped". A League spokesman said: "It is normal policy to have different officials for both legs."

Jol missed Saturday's victory against Nottingham Forest, and has not yet had the stitches removed from a deep wound in his leg. However, he is likely to play tomorrow as Albion seek to stifle Spurs' hopes of repeating Saturday's six-goal form.

Manager Ronnie Allen is also likely to retain Martyn Bennett, although Ally Robertson, whom Bennett replaced in the first leg, is back after suspension. Left-back Derek Statham, suspended on Saturday, also returns.

All the men who scored for Spurs in Saturday's 6—1 home thrashing of Wolves have survived injury worries. Ricky Villa, who hit a hat-trick, was back in training today despite an ankle injury, and Galvin also trained today after shrugging off his knee problems. Glen Hoddle, who has a calf injury, and Garth Crooks, who hurt a knee against Wolves, have not trained all week, but have responded well to treatment, and Mark Falco has held off the challenge of Steve Archibald.

Cricket

Young Sri Lankan takes a century off jaded England

From Dick Streeton
Kandy, Feb 9

England, who doubtless found it hard to summon a full measure of application, were duly punished when their three-day match with a Sri Lanka Board President's XI began here today. A fine hundred by Ranjan Madugalle, marked by strong driving, kept England in the field until bad light brought a premature close 30 minutes from the end. Madugalle was undefeated with 115 out of 227 for five and has, presumably, earned a place in next week's Test match.

Just as MCC teams in bygone days found it difficult to return to work in New Zealand at the tail end of an Australian tour, so did Fletcher's players give a lacklustre performance on this occasion. They will not lose this game but they made it perfectly clear, subconsciously or not, that this was one of those fixtures they could have done without.

It must remain debatable, however, whether a side in England colours, irrespective of how travel weary and tired they feel, should not pull out the stops in such matches. Overnight the team switched hotels, without a great deal of justification, and with some inevitable bruising of local susceptibilities.

Somerset Maugham would have felt at home but it proved too much for modern gladiators. They have my sympathy in some respects, but, rather sadly, there is no longer any sense of ambassadorial mission among modern players.

Madugalle, a 22-year-old locally born right hander, first showed his temperament for the big occasion with some useful runs against the Australians when they played in Sri Lanka en route to England last year. He did none too well in England last summer, but apart from a hot return chance to Underwood when 59, he did not make the semblance of a mistake. Short and strong, he punched the ball with splendid power and timing on both sides of the wicket and was equally effective on either the back or front foot.

Lever, in his opening spell, and Underwood, with occasional lift and turn later, were the best of England's bowlers in gruelling sunshine on this picturesque ground. There was always some irregular bounce in the pitch, but once it lost its early dampness it was as slow as most of the Indian pitches in recent weeks and its lasting properties will remain to be seen. Meanwhile, the crowd, including numerous school parties, numbered only 3,000, which was a disappointment.

Wettimuny drew on all his experience to take the brunt of the early threat from Lever and Allott. But he was brilliantly caught after 85 minutes by Gower, left handed at third slip, from a clip that seemed to have passed the fieldsman. Warnakulasuriya and Jayasekera previously had both played on, aiming forcing in the course of five balls from Lever, and it seemed England's fielding stint was going to be pleasurably short.

Madugalle, however, was soon on-driving and hitting straight with confidence. Mendis, whose Test place is secure, earned runs with some crisp square cutting.

Mendis eventually mistimed a drive and was caught at mid-off and Ranatunga, a 17-year-old left hander, began promisingly before being dismissed in rather an unlucky manner. He hit one of numerous overpitched balls from Emburey with great strength on the back foot, and the ball struck Gower's thigh at silly point as he turned away, and rebounded for Richards to hold. There was a slight delay while the umpire clarified his thoughts and Gower massaged his [illegible] every cause to wonder [illegible] cricket manners of one of our England close fieldsmen.

The President's side were then 109 for five, but Perera [illegible] down with calm efficiency [illegible] Madugalle drove with [illegible] more freedom. Before the end their unfinished stand [illegible] on 118 in 27 overs, and [illegible] had felt able to start hitting the England spin bowlers [illegible] their heads. Madugalle, the [illegible] hero, finished with 17 fours and has had just over four hours [illegible] absorb the atmosphere of a representative cricket's less satisfactory occasions.

PRESIDENT'S XI: First Innings [illegible]

HOBART: Second under-19 international: Australia 313 [illegible]; Pakistan 162 (C McDermott [illegible]).

PORT ELIZABETH: Eastern Province 182 [illegible]

Skiing

Weather and Mahres' luck change

Kirchberg, Austria, Feb 9.—Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden won his fifth World Cup race of the season with a comfortable victory in the giant slalom here today.

Stenmark, winner of the slalom and silver medalist in the giant at last week's world championship in Schladming, built up a 1.03-second lead over his American rival, Phil Mahre, in the first run. The Swede relaxed slightly on the second leg, but finished 0.92 seconds ahead of Mahre, with Marc Girardelli, of Luxembourg, third.

Today's race, through 56 gates down a drop of 392 metres on both runs, was a substitute for an earlier event in Val d'Isère which was cancelled because of bad weather.

Phil Mahre, virtually assured of the overall World Cup title, appeared to be handicapped by his failure to complete both slalom events at Schladming and made several mistakes on the first leg. His twin brother Steve, the surprise giant slalom gold medallist at Schladming, finished fourteenth.

Girardelli, who was born in Austria, but has a licence to ski for Luxembourg, finished third after being overtaken by Phil Mahre on the second run. Girardelli was not allowed to compete in the world championships because his Luxembourg licence is valid only for World Cup events.

Stenmark came down the piste in a combined time of two minutes 52.06 seconds to win his 67th race in a World Cup event since 1974. "He is really fantastic," Phil Mahre said after the race. "He is very tough to beat, but we will just have to keep on trying." Stenmark's win gave him a total of 204 World Cup points, while Mahre's tally went up to 282.

Steve Mahre shared 14th place with the Italian Ivano Edalini. "I do not know why I lost today," he said. "One day it goes better than the other. Maybe I ski better on a hard track."

The 1,430-metre course was soft after heavy snow falls during the night and a handicap for later starters.

The competitors will now move to Garmisch Partenkirchen in West Germany, where a World Cup slalom and a downhill race are scheduled at the weekend.

RESULTS: 1, I Stenmark (Sweden) 2min 52.06sec; 2, P Mahre (US) 2:52.98; 3, M Girardelli (Luxembourg) 2:53.05; 4, H Enn (Austria) 2:54.11; 5, W Ortner (Austria) 2:54.50; 6, J Franko (Yugoslavia) 2:54.75; 7, J Kuralt (Yugoslavia) 2:53.78; 8, P Zubrigen (Switzerland) 2:54.90; 9, B Krizal (Yugoslavia) 2:56.01; 10, J Halsnes (Norway) 2:56.33.

WORLD CUP: 1, P Mahre, 282pts; 2, I Stenmark, 204; 3, A Wenzel (Liechtenstein) 95; 4, S Podborski (Canada) 94; 5, H Weirather (Austria) 78; 6, E Resch (Austria) 76; 7, J Gaspoz (Switzerland) 74; 8, M Girardelli 72; 9, F Klammer (Austria) 71; equal 10, S Mahre, P Müller (Switzerland) 67.

Biathlon

MOSCOW: world championships. Junior men's cross-country (15km): 1, Y Kashkarov (USSR), 53min 55.98sec; 2, R Gotel (E Germany), 53:05.52; 3, S Bulygin (USSR), 53:06.33; 4, A Ieronis (USSR), 55:41.47; 5, S [illegible] (USSR), 55:59.84.

Smiles all round for the Epple sisters after Maria (right) was first and Irene fourth at Oberstaufen.

One or the other Epple keeps on winning races

Oberstaufen, West Germany, Feb 9.—Maria Epple, aged 22, of West Germany, won a World Cup giant slalom here on Tuesday and said ruefully: "This victory should have come a few days earlier." She referred to the 1982 World Alpine Championships at Schladming which ended last Sunday, where she had been the top German skier with a sixth place in the slalom.

The American, Christin Cooper from Sun Valley, Idaho, was second at Oberstaufen and had no reason to complain about the world championships where she won three medals. "I am happy for the German girls", Miss Cooper said after the giant slalom. "I am satisfied with second place, especially since Maria and I were so close together.

"I made a little mistake on the bottom of the second run. I hit a little hole and she skied very well in that section, and that made the difference."

Miss Cooper will probably not go to Arosa, Switzerland, where the next World Cup races are scheduled for the coming weekend. "I want to go home, so I probably will go home", she said. The Arosa races are downhills, which is not miss Cooper's speciality.

Erika Hess of Switzerland, who won three gold medals at Schladming, was third at Oberstaufen.

"I am probably a bit tired, after all that stress at the world championships", she said.

As the next World Cup races are in Switzerland, Miss Hess faces a heroine's welcome at home. She said she knew that would mean more stess. "But I will try to cope with it".

Maria Epple's older sister Irene was fourth in the giant slalom. She had been a top favourite in the world championships, on the strength of three earlier world cup victories, but failed to win a top place at Schladming.

Both Irene Epple and Miss Hess scored World Cup points in the Oberstaufen event. Miss Hess's new leading total is 268 points. Irene Epple is runner-up with 254, and Miss Cooper third with 159.

There are nine World Cup races left in the women's division. After the downhill races at Arosa, the competitors move to Winter Park, Aspen and Waterville in the United States before returning to Europe for races at Sansicario and Montgenevre in France.

RESULTS: 1, M Epple (WG) [illegible]; 2, C Cooper (US) [illegible]; 3, E Hess (Switzerland) [illegible]; 4, I Epple (WG) 2:29.26; 5, P [illegible] (France) [illegible]; 6, C Nelson (US) [illegible]; 7, T McKinney (US) 2:30.[illegible]; 8, F Serrat (France) [illegible]; 9, [illegible] (Sweden) [illegible]; 10, [illegible] (Czechoslovakia) [illegible].

OVERALL (after [illegible] events): 1, [illegible] Epple 207pts; 2, Hess [illegible]; 3, M Epple [illegible]; 4, Pelen 41; Cooper 41; [illegible] McKinney 50.

WORLD CUP (after [illegible] events): 1, Hess 268pts; 2, I Epple 254; 3, Cooper 159; 4, U Konzett (Liechtenstein) [illegible]; 5, E Sulkkers (Austria) [illegible]; 6, Pelen 118; 7, Nelson 116; 8, F Serrat (France) 90; 9, M-R Quario (Italy) 87; 10, D Zini (Italy) 81.

Chinese to ski at Oslo

Peking, Feb 9.—China will compete in the World Nordic Ski Championships for the first time, the New China News Agency said today. The agency said a six-member team would travel to Oslo for the Championships, which run from February 18 to 28.

China recently started to take part in winter sports after joining the International Ski Federation last May. They also competed in the World Alpine Championships in Schladming, Austria, which ended last weekend, for the first time.

Bowls

Hosking at a loose end

By Gordon Allan

David Bryant, the defending champion, won his first match in the world indoor championship, sponsored by Embassy, at Coatbridge, Glasgow, yesterday. He beat Jack Hosking, the Australian champion, 21—17 in two hours 15 minutes and in the first of the quarter finals tomorrow plays John Dunn, the English indoor singles champion.

The play of Bryant and Hosking adorned the occasion. We saw every shot in the book bar the out and out drive. There was, by my reckoning, only one really loose end, at which Bryant collected four shots. None of the others was decided until the last wood had come to rest.

The turning point came with the score 9—5 in Hosking's favour. Bryant then took four at each of the next two ends, to go 13—9 ahead. Varying the length of the mat, he stayed ahead, as he generally does when the challenge is fiercest, although at the penultimate end Hosking reached 19—17 by rolling out Bryant's shot bowl and bringing two of his own into the count.

At the last end Hosking dropped short with his first bowl and Bryant saw his chance. Without those two fours, or even without one of them, who knows what Hosking might have done.

First on to the green were Dunn and a gum-chewing Canadian from Toronto, Barrie McFadden. McFadden stopped chewing halfway through the match, when Dunn led 15—4, and, helped by a four after Dunn had fired and knocked all his own woods off the rink, fought back to 19—15. That, however, was the limit of his recovery and Dunn won 21—15.

Dunn, who maintained a better length throughout, even when McFadden shortened the mat, was in hospital 10 days ago for treatment to torn stomach muscles. He showed no sign of being affected by it here, although he said that if the event had been less important he would not have played.

RESULTS: first round: J Dunn (England) 21, B McFadden (Canada) 15; D Bryant (England) 21; J Hosking (Australia) 17.

Athletics

British team looks set for victory

Britain look good enough to win all the events in the indoor international at Cosford tomorrow, sponsored by Philips, but national director of coaching, Frank Dick, has warned his team against being over confident.

On paper, the British men look far too strong for the Belgians, and the women appear equally powerful in their match against the Netherlands.

The men should have the winning combination in most track events though Harry King and Selwyn Clarke could be tested by Roland Desruelles in the 60 metres.

In the women's match, the most interesting confrontation could be the domestic clash between Ann Marie Cording and Diana Elliott in the high jump. Both have broken the national indoor record within the past three weeks and Mrs Cording's best of 1.9 metres could be in danger.

Today's football fixtures

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated.

LEAGUE CUP: Semi-final round: second leg: Tottenham Hotspur v West Bromwich Albion (7.45). FIRST DIVISION: Aston Villa v Southampton: Sunderland v Stoke City.

FOURTH DIVISION: Blackpool v Rochdale: Hartlepool v Scunthorpe: Peterborough v Hull City: Torquay v Hereford.

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION: Dunfermline v Hamilton: East Stirling v Ayr.

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION: Albion Rovers v Clyde: Brechin City v Stenhousemuir: East Fife v Montrose.

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Bob Lord Trophy (Third round, first leg): Boston United v Runcorn: Weymouth v Gravesend. Third round, second leg League: Kettering v Scarborough (prov): Telford United v Barnet (prov): Yeovil v Worcester (prov).

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Midlands. Alvechurch v Taunton: Wellingborough v Gloucester: Bridgend v Enderby. Southern: Addleston and Weybridge v Folkestone: Dover v Basingstoke: Dunstable v Canterbury.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Bass Cup: Third round replay: Southport v Workington. League: Grantham v Worksop.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: Leeds v Blackpool: Preston v Sheffield Utd.

IRISH LEAGUE: Distillery v Ballymena.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Chelsea Res v Swindon (2.15): Oxford Utd v Leicester: Reading v Norwich: QP Rangers v Plymouth (3.30).

FA TROPHY: Second round replay: Mossley v Woking.

ESSEX SENIOR CUP: Semi-final round: Rainham Town v Colchester United.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: First division: Bognor Regis Town v Hampton (Waterlooville FC): Feltham v Wembley. Second division: Tring Town v Letchworth Garden City.

ATHENIAN LEAGUE: Edgware v Marlow.

UAU CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final round (Lilleshall): Birmingham v Bristol: Liverpool v Warwick.

BRITISH POLYTECHNIC ASSOCIATION: Semi-final round: Leeds v Kingston: Thames v Sheffield.

FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Wolverhampton v Charlton.

Rugby Union

CLUB MATCHES: Abertillery v South Glamorgan Inst (7.0): Bristol v Royal Navy (7.0): Moseley v Cheltenham: Pontypridd v Ebbw Vale (7.0): Rosslyn Park v Cambridge University: Tredegar v Pontypool (7.0).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: United Banks v Surrey (Midland Bank, New Beckenham, 2.45).

COUNTY MATCH: Norfolk v Essex (Lowestoft).

UAU CHAMPIONSHIPS: Semi-final round. Durham v Manchester (York Univ): Lancaster v Exeter (Birmingham Univ).

BRITISH POLYTECHNIC ASSOCIATION: Semi-final round: N Staffordshire v Bristol (Stratford RFC): Wolls v Leeds (Sutton Coaldfield RFC).

Hockey

LONDON LEAGUE: Guildford v Oxford University: Old Kingstonians v Cambridge University.

UAU CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-final round: Leeds v Durham (York Univ): Loughborough v Exeter (Lilleshall). Women: Semi-final round: Aberystwyth v Bradford (Lilleshall): Birmingham v Loughborough (Leicester).

BRITISH POLYTECHNIC ASSOCIATION: Semi-final round: Trent v Oxford: Portsmouth v Wolverhampton (Bristol).

Yesterday's result

SCHOOLS MATCH: Stewart's-Melville 3, Loretto 7.

Squash rackets

Australia's title hopes hit by Dittmar's illness

Singapore, Feb 9.—Australia's hopes of retaining the world junior team championship suffered a setback when their top-ranking player, Christopher Dittmar, was confined to a hospital bed.

Dittmar, who was the runner-up in the singles event in Kuala Lumpur last week, was admitted to hospital last night with suspected appendicitis after leading his side to a 3—0 win over Hongkong. It is not known when Dittmar, aged 18, will be able to play again, but even without his services, Austrila continued their winning ways when they beat Scotland 3—0 today.

Doctors are hopeful that Dittmar is only suffering from a stomach upset and that he will recover in time to play in the semi-final round, which starts on Thursday.

The other nations who have qualified for the semi-final pools are Scotland, New Zealand, Wales, Pakistan, Sweden, England and Ireland.

Sweden stretched top seeded Pakistan to the full before going down 3—0 in the final day's play of the preliminary round. Pakistan's number one Sohail Qaiser, who won the singles title in Kuala Lumpur last week, was taken to five sets before beating Frerik Johnson in 2—9, 9—7, 1—9, 9—4, 9—4.

Sweden's Joachim Hirsch took the first set off Khadim Hussain at 9—7, before conceding 6—9, 4—9, 2—9. Only Pakistan's Omar Hyatt had an easy three-set win.

Table tennis

Douglas seeks to extend winning record

By a Special Correspondent

Desmond Douglas, the English champion, returned from France on Monday, convinced he had narrowly missed a great opportunity to become European Top Twelve champion. Today, at Macclesfield, where England take on Sweden in the European Superleague; he will probably have the chance to prove his point.

The Swedes include the Top Twelve winner Mikael Appelgren in their squad and Douglas, who finished with only one win less on Sunday, and who led Appelgren by two games before losing 2—3, should relish the chance of taking him on again.

Douglas, like England, has at least an even chance of winning. His record against Appelgren and both the other Swedish men in the squad, Stellan Bengtsson, the former world champion, and Ulf Carlsson, the former Scandinavian Open champion, is excellent. England's other national champion, Jill Hammersley, proved by finishing runner-up on Sunday that changing to a new combination bat has re-established her as a leading force in Europe.

If England do win, the chances are that the destination of the Superleague title will depend, for the second season in a row, on the last match against the holders, Hungary.

England have an unchanged squad, so Douggie Johnson, who made a remarkable singles debut by beating the former European champion Milan Orlowski in a match against Czechoslovakia recently, will probably have another chance to surprise other leading players with his use of a combination bat.

ENGLAND (from): D Douglas (Warwickshire), D Johnson (Warwickshire), J Sandley (Middlesex), Mrs J Hammersley (Buckinghamshire), Mrs L Jarvis (Cleveland).
SWEDEN (from): S Bengtsson, M Appelgren, U Carlsson, Miss A-C Hellman, Miss M Lindblad.

Mrs Knight has a double triumph

Bombay, Feb 9.—The top seeds, Atanoa Musa, of Nigeria, and Carole Knight, of England, won the men's and women's singles titles at the sixth Commonwealth table tennis championships here today.

Knight rallied smartly to beat Alison Gordon, also of England, 17—21, 23—21, 21—12, 25—23 in an exciting final. Musa defeated Canadian Zoran Kosanovic.

England lifted the women's doubles title when the top-seeded pair, Carole Knight and Joy Grundy, came from behind to defeat the Indians Indu Puri and Vyoma Shah 19—21, 21—13, 21—23, 21—14, 21—11 in a thrilling final.

England also captured the mixed doubles title to add to the men's and women's team events they won last week. Grundy teamed with Nigel Eckersley to beat Canadians Mariann Domonkos and Kosanovic 21—13, 27—25, 21—13.

MEN'S SINGLES: Semi-finals: A Musa (Nigeria) beat M Das (India), 21—18, 21—15, 21—17; Z Kosanovic (Canada) beat V Chandrashekhar (India) 23—21, 13—21, 19—21, 21—9, 21—13. Final: Musa beat Kosanovic 21—17, 21—23, 21—14, 21—19.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Semi-finals: A Gordon (England) beat Marian Domonkos (Canada) 21—14, 21—14, 21—15; C Knight (England) beat I Puri (India), 21—14, 21—17, 25—23. Final: Knight beat Gordon.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Semi-finals: I Puri and V Shah (India) beat A Morrow (Australia) and A Gordon (England) 21—14, 21—16, 21—11; C Knight and J Grundy (England) beat M Domonkos and G Hsu (Canada) 21—13, 21—9, 20—22, 21—14. Final: Knight and Grundy beat Puri and Shah 19—21, 21—13, 21—23, 21—14, 21—11.

MEN'S DOUBLES: Semi-finals: A Musca and S Eboh (Nigeria) beat A Khan and S Hayat (Pakistan), 21—13, 21—14, 21—17; Z Kosanovic and J Ng (Canada) beat V Chandrasekhar and M Singh (India), 21—13, 21—19, 19—21, 21—17. Final: Musa and Eboh beat Kosanovic and Ng, 23—21, 21—17, 13—21, 21—14.

MIXED DOUBLES: Semi-finals: N Eckersley and J Grundy (England) beat S Eboh and O Majekodunmi (Nigeria) 21—17, 21—18, 18—21, 21—23, 21—11; Z Kosanovic and M Domonkos (Canada) beat M Singh and I Puri (India), 21—17, 21—5, 21—9. Final: Eckersley and Grundy beat Kosanovic and Domonkos 21—13, 27—25, 21—13.

Tennis

Alexander's comeback continues

Memphis, Feb 8.—John Alexander, of Australia, scored the first upset of the United States National Indoor Tennis Championships today with a 6—3, 7—6 victory over ninth-seeded Brian Gottfried.

Alexander, who at 30 is the third oldest player in a 48-man field, will face the tournament's youngest, 16-year-old Jimmy Brown, in the second round.

Alexander, once ranked as high as number eight in the world, is attempting a come back after a 1980 back injury, and is now number 60. "I played pretty well, but I think Brian made some unusual errors for him", Alexander said. "He is usually pretty steady, and he usually wins when we play. If I had had to bet, I wouldn't have bet on myself."

Nine of the tournament's 16 seeds played today, and Gottfried was the only one to lose. In an earlier match, sixth-seeded Yannick Noah defeated fellow Frenchman Thierry Tulasne 6—1, 6—2. Noah, 21, has won all three matches against his 18-year-old countryman. "I know his game by heart", Noah said. "We always practise together. I know he doesn't like my type of game because he stays on the baseline and I can go in or stay back and do whatever I want to do. I started out very fast today and that put a lot of pressure on him."

Top-seeded John McEnroe and second-seeded Eliot Teltscher, both Americans, play their first matches tomorrow.

FIRST ROUND: (US unless stated): G Mayer beat Borowiak, 6—4, 6—2; A Mayer beat Andrews, 5—6, 6—3, 6—4; Tanner beat Cahill, 6—4, 7—5; Krick beat Dupré, 6—4, 6—3; Pfister beat Fleming, 7—6, 6—4; Solomon beat Portes, 7—5, 7—6; Hooper beat Krishnan, 6—1, 7—5; Giammalva beat Arias, 6—1, 6—3; Taygan beat Testerman, 2—6, 6—4, 6—2; Alexander beat Gottfried, 6—3, 7—6; Noah beat Tulasne, 6—1, 6—2.

For the record

Handball

BRUSSELS: World championships: Pool A: Italy beat GB 27—15; Norway beat Faroe Islands 25—17. Final placings: equal 1, Bulgaria and Norway; equal 3, Italy and Faroe Islands; 5, GB. Pool B: Luxembourg and Finland drew 22—22; Belgium beat Portugal 21—20. Final placings: 1, Belgium; 2, Luxembourg; 3, Finland; equal 4, Portugal and Austria.

Tennis

KANSAS CITY: Women's tournament: M L Piatek (US) beat P Medrado (Brazil), 6—1, 6—1; A Leand (US) beat S Collins (US), 6—0, 6—2; Claudia Kohde (W Germany), beat E Pfaff (W Germany), 6—1, 6—1.

GRAND PRIX (US unless stated): 1, J Sadri, 310pts; 2, J McEnroe, 300; 3, A Gomez (Ecuador), 235; 4, J Connors, 210; 5, S Mayer, 160; 6, V Gerulaitis and C Hooper, 120; 8, K Curren (SA), 110; 9, K Warwick (Australia), 100; 10, V Winitsky, 90.

DARTMUND: King's Cup: Final, West Germany beat Czechoslovakia 2—1.

DENVER: Colorado: Grand Prix tournament. Final: J Sadri (US) beat A Gomez (Equador) 4—6, 6—1, 6—4.

TORONTO: Invitation tournament: Final: I Lendl (Czechoslovakia) beat J McEnroe (US) 7—5, 5—6, 7—6, 7—5.

DETROIT: Women's Grand Prix tournament: Final: A Jaeger (US) beat M Jausovec (Yugoslavia), 2—6, 6—4, 6—2.

Squash rackets

SINGAPORE: World junior championships: Pool A: Australia beat Scotland 3—0: T Nancarrow beat M Maclean, 6—9, 9—5, 9—3, 9—4. G Pinnington beat B Tait, 9—5, 9—5, 9—6; P Schroeder beat J Morrison, 9—1, 7—9, 9—1, 9—4. Pool B: Singapore beat Thailand 3—0; New Zealand beat Wales 2—1 (New Zealand first): D McQueen beat A Williams, 9—4, 9—6, 9—5; H Leabourn beat A Davies, 8—10, 9—7, 9—3, 9—1; M Scot Crosbie lost to H Evans, 3—9, 9—3, 7—9, 9—5, 5—9; Pool C: Pakistan beat Sweden 3—0. Pool D: England beat Ireland 3—0. C Wilstrop beat J J McKay, 9—2, 9—1, 9—0; J Hickok beat J Phelan, 9—2, 9—2, 9—2; M Green beat P Kavanagh, 9—0, 9—2, 9—5. West Germany beat Malaysia 2—1.

Football

FA TROPHY DRAW: Third round: Hyde United or Wycombe Wanderers v Bishop Auckland: Altrincham v Woking or Mossley: Kidderminster Harriers v Dagenham: Telford or Bedford v Enfield: Bishop's Stortford v Witton Albion: Scarborough v Slough: Northwich Victoria v Runcorn: Sutton United v Worcester City. Matches to be played on February 27.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off Piste	Runs to resort	Weather (3 pm)	°C
Andermatt	165	280	Good	Varied	Good	Fair	4
Good snow on all slopes							
Arosa	160	210	Good	Powder	Good	Fair	-3
Powder on good base							
Courmayeur	128	250	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	5
Excellent skiing on high slopes							
Grindelwald	20	110	Good	Varied	Fair	Sunny	3
Good piste skiing							
Klosters	150	230	Good	Varied	Good	Snow	1
Excellent piste skiing							
Mürren	90	180	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	4
Good skiing on all piste							
St Anton	140	470	Good	Varied	—	Cloud	—
New snow on hard base							
Seefeld	145	195	Good	Varied	Good	Fine	2
Excellent skiing conditions							
Zermatt	75	155	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	2
Worn patches on lower slopes							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes.

SCOTLAND: Cairngorm: A few main runs complete. New snow with many icy patches. Lower slopes: very little snow with many icy patches. Vertical runs: 1,400ft. Access roads clear. Snow level: 2,200ft. Glenshee: No main runs, complete runs, cover patchy. Spring snow. Lower slopes: very little spring snow. Vertical runs: 400ft. Access roads clear. Snow level: 2,000ft. Glencoe: Main runs complete. New snow on a hard base. Lower slopes: ample nursery areas. New snow. Vertical run: 1,500ft. Access roads clear. Snow level: 2,100ft. Lecht: Only one high level main run complete. Spring snow on a firm base. Lower slopes: Limited nursery areas. Spring snow on a firm base. Vertical runs: 600ft. Access road clear. Snow level: 2,000ft.

Race walking

Another barrier broken

After 23 years women have earned the right to walk in Battersea Park, London, on February 13 in the Greater London Council's London race walking championship. This year, before the men's event, the women's championship will be inaugurated at 2 pm when they will set out on a 5,000-metre race around the Carriageway. At 2.40 the twenty-fourth men's championship will start. The men will lap the Carriageway for a distance of 10 miles, with the champion expected to break the tape at around 3.30.

David Jarman, of Surrey Walking Club, will be defending the championship time he set up last year. More than 120 competitors, in 12 teams, will be on his heels.

Clubs taking part are: Belgrave Harriers (two teams), Cambridge Harriers, Enfield Harriers, Ilford Athletic Club, Havering AC, Highgate Harriers, London Vidarians, Metropolitan Police, Cadets, Stock Exchange AC, Surrey Walking Club and Woodford Green AC.

Racing

Little Owl ready to pass Ascot's searching test

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

A glimpse of the horses who won the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Grand National last season is the treat in store at Ascot today. Even more savoury is the fact that Little Owl and Aldaniti, the two in question, are in the same race, the Whitbread Trial Handicap Steeplechase.

Aldaniti won this prize 12 months ago en route to Liverpool, where he and Bob Champion subsequently made their own piece of racing history. This will be Aldaniti's first race since that unforgettable day early last April and already it is clear that he faces an infinitely harder task this aternoon than he did a year ago.

On that occasion his opposition was of no great consequence, to put it mildly. Today it will include not only Little Owl but also Cavity Hunter, from the all-conquering Michael Dickinson stable, and Grittar, who is likely to be asked to try to scale jumping's highest peaks at Cheltenham and Aintree later this spring. While no one should be unduly worried if Aldanati fails to win this afternoon, there will certainly be consternation, not to mention some long faces, if Little Owl does not run well.

Little Owl still has something to prove. Without peers last season, he could hardly have begun the defence of his crown more disastrously by falling at Cheltenham, on the last day of the Old Year, and then failing to complete the course at Kempton last month.

Then, to make matters worse, the leading bookmakers, whose intelligence network is second to none, promptly knocked Little Owl's price for this year's Gold Cup out to 8-1 — an offer which was little short of insulting, always assuming he was all right.

In the meantime, both his trainer, Peter Easterby, and his rider and joint-owner, Jim Wilson, have insisted that all is well in their camp. With that assertion, they are putting their heads on the block and as they have so much to lose, it will be a brave person who disbelieves them.

I am convinced that Little Owl is, at least, entitled to another chance to prove that he is still on course in his attempt to emulate L'Escargot, who was the last to win jumping's blue riband at Cheltenham in successive years, and for that reason, Little Owl is my selection this afternoon. When he won the Gold Cup, he simply added fuel to his previous performances last season, which all indicated that he was good enough to win a race of today's calibre.

Aldaniti apart, his most interesting rival this afternoon is undoubtedly Grittar, who won the Foxhunters' Steeplechase at both Cheltenham and Liverpool last season. This time, though, he is after the Gold on both those courses.

The fact that Grittar's time when he won the Foxhunters' at Cheltenham was only about three seconds slower than that which Little Owl took to win the Gold Cup, half an hour later, must be called as evidence when one considers his chance of beating Little Owl now.

At Cheltenham, they carried the same weight. Now the difference is 25lb and Grittar ran promisingly in his first race of the season at Leicester last week.

Cavity Hunter, Dickinson's representative, has not run since he won at Leicester in November. Yesterday, his trainer who has been carrying all before him recently, admitted to having misgivings about the soft ground.

There are several other interesting races at Ascot today including the Reynoldstown Novices Steeplechase, won two seasons ago by Little Owl and which should provide an interesting pointer to Cheltenham. Dickinson is of the opinion that his mother's seven-year-old Seamus O'Flynn is a 'Cheltenham' horse and, perhaps, just the sort to win the Sun Alliance Steeplechase there next month.

Seamus O'Flynn boasts an impressive record this season but to justify that tag he must now give weight and a beating to both Richdee and Drumlargan.

Twelve months ago, Richdee won the Fernbank Hurdle so his ability to last today's course cannot be doubted. Furthermore, he has adapted to jumping fences.

An even greater danger to Seamus O'Flynn must surely be Drumlargan, who was good enough to win the Sun Alliance Novices Hurdle at Cheltenham two seasons ago. The 8 lb that he receives from my selection, might prove a significant factor.

However, it is worth pointing out that Drumlargan was beaten by Kilkildowen was himself beaten nine lengths by Seamus O'Flynn's stable companion, Wayward Lad, at Ascot in November, when he, too, was receiving a stone from Wayward Lad.

In the circumstances, I am tempted to think that Drumlargan is not invincible, and that over three miles Seamus O'Flynn may be capable of successfully conceding him weight.



The Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Little Owl has Aldaniti among eight rivals for the Whitbread Trial Handicap Steeplechase.

Pollardstown doubtful

Pollardstown is very doubtful for Saturday's Schweppes Gold Trophy at Newbury. His Lambourn trainer, Stan Mellor, said that the seven-year-old is suffering from a muscular problem.

The tote report heavy backing for Badsworth Boy for the race and have shortened has odds from 20-1 to 16-1.

There are 32 four-day acceptors for Saturday's Schweppes Gold Trophy. They are: Heighlin, Pollardstown, Ekbalco, Connaught Ranger, Gaye Chance, Pearlstone, For Auction, Badsworth Boy, Donegal Prince, Lumen, Dellersbeck, Boollaces, Ra Tapu, Mount Harvard, Mr Moonraker, The Tsarevich, Grey Mate, Apple Wine, High Old Time, Hever, Homeson, Du Maurier, Walnut Wonder, Hay Ride, Hadojar, Franciscus, Knighthood, Roadster, Prince Of Bermuda, Clog Dance, Holemoor Star, Luxuriate.

Point-to-Point

Mr Mellors meets his match

By Ian Reid

The new season got off to a fine start with the Easton Harriers' meeting at Higham and the Staff College and R.M.A. Drag at Tweseldown, where racecards sold out before the first race. Five of the favourites for the six open races at the two meetings were defeated, though the going was near perfect.

The biggest shock came in the Albright and Wilson ladies' open at Higham in which Jacksway, standing just over 15 hands, outgalloped and, more than once, outjumped the formidable combination of Mr. Mellors and leading lady rider, Lucy Gibbon (née King).

The men's open, the first qualifying race for the Christie's T.K.M. final, was won by Highland Sauce by three lengths from Kilton Jo, with Big Ben five lengths away third. The first two earned tickets to Chepstow, but the form may not amount to much.

At Tweseldown, Zarajeff looked like justifying his short price in the women's race when Jenny Pidgeon drove him up to the leaders half a mile from home, but he ran out of steam in the straight and could not peg back Mister Tack and Housemistress. Mister Tack, who twice beat Jacksway last season, was a first Tweseldown winner for Anne Alcock, bringing her total score to 28.

Ballytartar, at a generous 7-1, finished too strongly for the odds-on Loyal Partner in the first men's open. Brewster II, at evens, scraped home by a dwindling short head from Miss Friday in the second, and the diminutive, but spring-heeled Playfields was an impressive winner of the third.

Playfields has won two hurdle races and two steeplechasers in Ireland, and £7,500 in prize money. He is only 15 hands high, but beautifully made. Sheenagh Pilkington, who trains him for his owner Mr A. Baird at Baulking, has a broken wrist in plaster, but said she would be riding Playfields in hunter chases when the bone has mended.

Two notorious rogues — equine not human, I hasten to add — were in the line-up of 16 for the opening members' race. Eton Boy, whose adamant refusal to be led out of his box finally exasperated his former professional trainer, ran sweetly, if not very fast, for the secretary of the meeting, Martin Green, finishing a remote third to Philip Scouller's nice new acquisition, Placemen.

As for Flintstone, he makes ASLEF look a model of consistency. He is talented to have won this race by the length of a King's Cross platform, if so minded. But after keeping the leaders company for a circuit, Flintstone downed hooves and disappeared in the direction of the horse boxes.

Sue Exell, prettiest member of the Beaufort Hunt Committee, tells me that the response to the Buchanan Whisky-sponsored cross-country members' race, to be run at their meeting at Didmarton on March 6, has been overwhelming. With a long hedge as the first obstacle there is no safety factor, and a field of over 100 is more than possible. The Prince of Wales is keen to take part.

The energetic and enterprising chairman of the owners' association, Jim Mahon, who has done more than any man to introduce sponsors to hunt racing, has let it be known that the Jockey Club sees no objection to the association holding its meeting on a Sunday next year. But what about the Sunday gaming laws? With his customary Irish optimism, Jim Mahon said: "I've no doubt we'll find a way round that problem."

SATURDAY'S FIXTURES: Cambridgeshire Harriers at Cottenham (noon), Oxford University at Kingston Blount (12.30).

☐ National Hunt jockey, Carroll Gray, who has been out of action since August with a fractured right leg, returns to the saddle at Wincanton tomorrow when he rides Freeze Frame in the Gillingham Handicap Hurdle.

Ascot programme

Tote Double: 2.30 and 3.35 Treble 2.0, 3.0 and 4.10
[Television (BBC2): 2.0, 2.30, 3.0 and 3.35 races]

1.30 DATCHET HURDLE (novices: £2,715: 2m) (16 runners)

101	1[illegible]	BROADHEATH (Mrs S Tainton) D Nicholson 5-11-13	P Scudamore
103	2-21013	OSCAR WILDE (CD) (N De Savary) F Winter 5-11-13	J Francome
105	3/-0112	MASTER ANDREW (D) (Queen Mother) F Walwyn 7-11-10	W Smith
107	0102	CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE (H Thomson) P M Taylor 5-11-7	S Knightley 4
109	312	GILDED GOLD (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) J Thorne 6-11-7	R Hoare
110	410	SONNY MAY (G Hubbard) J Gifford 6-11-7	R Champion
112	00-21	CHEVINGTON (P Hopkins) J Gifford 5-11-3	R Rowe
114	00	GLASGOW CENTRAL (W Morgan) W Morgan 6-11-3	J O'Neill
115		HARDLY TIME (Maj J Urquhart) R Armytage 5-11-3	A Webber
116	0	NAVIGATIONAL AID (S Spindler) W Holden 6-11-3	A Coogan
119	00p	RED TOFF (B) (Mrs A Richards) C Austin 5-11-3	T Austin 4
121	00	SWANKY STAR (M Kneller) D Gandolfo 6-11-3	P Barton
122		TELSMOSS (C Papaloannou) P Mitchell 6-11-3	R Hughes
123		THE ADRIANSTAN (Miss C Warwick) D Hanley 7-11-3	J Kear 4
129	0300	MALFORD LAD (R Hawker) R Hawker 4-10-2	E Waite 4
132	022	VELESO (T Forde) J King 4-10-2	Steve Knight

7-4 Oscar Wilde, 11-4 Master Andrew, 9-2 Broadheath, 7 Gilded Gold, 8 Sonny May, 12 Veleso, 14 others.

2.00 SAPLING CHASE (Novices: £4,859: 2m) (5)

201	00-0101	COMBS DITCH (B) (R Tory) D Elsworth 6-11-13	C Brown
202	12-1114	FIFTY DOLLARS MORE (D) (Sheikh Ali Abu Khamsin) F Winter 7-11-13	J Francome
203	33-0401	RUN HARD (D) (H Joel) E Tarnell 7-11-7	Steve Knight
206	02-p262	CRANBOURNE TOWER (Queen Mother) F Walwyn 6-11-3	W Smith
211	0110-21	SAILOR'S RETURN (D) (Mrs E Tainton) D Nicholson 6-11-3	P Scudamore

15-8 Fifty Dollars More, 3 Combs Ditch, 9-2 Run Hard, 6 Sailors Return, 7 Cranbourne Tower.

2.30 FERNBANK HURDLE (£4,049: 3m) (9)

301	1-03000	HILL OF SLANE (C) (A Turnbull) A Jarvis 6-12-1	J O'Neill
302	143-412	CRIMSON EMBERS (B) (Mrs S Smart) F Walwyn 7-11-6	S Shilston
303	01-0000	FARMER (CD) (R Hawker) R Hawker 7-11-6	E Waite
304	0	HASTY STAR (R Kirk) R Kirk 6-11-6	Mr T Moore
305	111411	MAYOTTE (D) (T Smith) R Holder 7-11-6	P Richards
306	2p000/2	POPSI'S JOY (V Lawson) M Haynes 7-11-6	R Hughes
307	4011-p0	SPIRIT OF DERWENT (F Clegg) Mrs E Kennard 6-11-6	S Knightley
308	2300-21	TWO COPPERS (D) (G Warburton) L Kennard 7-11-6	J Francome
309	113400	SIR GORDON (C) (D Sanger) D Nicholson 5-11-2	P Scudamore

4-5 Mayotte, 4 Crimson Embers, 5 Popsi's Joy, 8 Two Coppers, 10 Sir Gordon, 14 others.

3.00 WHITBREAD TRIAL CHASE (Handicap: £9,614: 3m) (9)

401	1111-fp	LITTLE OWL (CD) (R Wilson) M H Easterby 8-12-0	Mr A J Wilson
403	121p/11	ALDANITI (CD) (S Embiricos) J Gifford 12-10-9	R Rowe
406	1-41043	SUGARALLY (D) (M Shone) G Fairbairn 9-10-4	R Lamb
407	1-ofp02	TWO SWALLOWS (D) (G Steinberg) R Armytage 9-10-3	A Webber
408	01111-3	GRITTAR (D) (F Gilman) F Gilman 9-10-3	J Francome
409	12110/1	CAVITY HUNTER (CD) (F Tyldesley) M W Dickinson 9-10-3	R Earnshaw
410	21-041u	ROMANY COUNT (Mrs R Jones) A Moore (IRE) 10-10-0	J O'Neill
411	11404-1	BOLD ARGUMENT (D) (H Price) R Blakeney 9-10-0	P Scudamore
412	14421-2	ABBEY BRIGG (CD) (P H Betts Holdings) J Gifford 8-10-0	—

6-4 Little Owl, 7-2 Grittar, 9-2 Sugarally, 6 Aldaniti, 8 Cavity Hunter, 10 Romany Count, 12 Others.

3.35 REYNOLDSTOWN CHASE (novices: £7,869: 3m) (12)

501	4-11111	SEAMUS O'FLYNN (D) (Mrs A Dickinson) M W Dickinson 7-12-0	R Earnshaw
502	10-1211	RICHDEE (Miss D Dalzell) N Crump 6-11-10	C Hawkins
503	011244	BISHOPS BOW (Mrs A Morley) R Turnell 8-11-6	Steve Knight
505	02-4p2	DAVEY VIEW (M Shone) G Fairbairn 8-11-6	J Francome
507	242100	DRUMCONDRA (J Tainton) D Nicholson 7-11-6	P Scudamore
507	242100	DRUMCONDRA (J Tainton) D Nicholson 7-11-6	P Scudamore
508	/00-412	DRUMLARGAN (M Cuddy) E O'Grady (IRE) 8-11-6	T Ryan
509	312221	FLYING ANGEL (Capt D Swan) D Swan (IRE) 7-11-6	P Gill
510	00pf03	PROSPER YOU CAN (B) (Woolley Sheepskin Products) L Kennard 7-11-6	
—	— 513 /p-0002	SLASHER (B) (P Verburg) G Fairbairn 8-11-6	R Lamb
514	412230	STAR MEMBER (R Hawker) R Hawker 7-11-6	E Waite
515	00/01-0	STRAIGHT ACCORD (N Paravicini) F Walwyn 7-11-6	W Smith
516	311	NICKLE MOPPET (P Dreaper) J Webber 5-10-9	Mr P Webber

9-4 Seamus O'Flynn, 3 Drumlargan, 7-2 Richdee, 6 Flying Angel, 8 Bishops Bow, 10 Nickle Moppet, 12 Slasher, 14 others.

4.10 KILFANE HURDLE (Amateurs: handicap: £2,203: 2½m) (26)

601	0	FADA (Lady Aubrey-Fletcher) Lady A-Fletcher 5-12-5	C Pilgrim 7
608	00-1011	SOUTHDOWN SPIRIT (D) (R Austen) J Gifford 6-11-7	P Webber
609	2200-02	BLAKE (D) (Lord H de Walden) F Winter 5-11-6	O Sherwood
610	130/332	HIPPARION (Miss D Wilson) S Mellor 10-11-5	B Powell 7
611	30010p	CLOG DANCE (C Holmes) J Clard 10-11-5	C Holmes 7
612	420-003	FIRST LIFT (B) (Dunns Motors) R Dunn 7-11-3	N Dunn 7
613	02-0p41	TANGLE BRIAR (R Wright) P Cundell 7-11-1	Mr A J Wilson
614	0f0op0	BROWN JOCK (R Armytage) R Armytage 14-11-0	Miss G Armytage 7
615	pp-2110	SHERNOON (Capt J Macdonald-Buchanan) D Nicholson 11-11-0	A MacDonald Buchanan 7
617	0000-3p	CAMOM (Mrs E Hutchinson) I Dudgeon 7-10-13	—
620	2231	BRANDO (J Sheppard) G Thorner 5-10-10	Mr T Thomson Jones
621	00p0-11	PARTY MISS (B Curtis) W Fisher 7-10-9	Miss H Chard 7
623	030-0rp	CROSA (S Jones) J C Fox 7-10-7	S Bush 7
624	2-00400	COMMANDANT (D Pitcher) G Balding 10-10-7	D Pitcher 7
625	000-400	BARB'S BEAU (L Vine) M Masson 5-10-7	G Woodruff 7
626	/0024-1	LORD LEIGHTON (DB) (S Hunt) L Kennard 8-10-7	P Nicholls 7
628	0/00000	CHAIN OF REASONING (J Joseph) S Harris 8-10-7	Peter Hobbs 7
629	000-00	MERLANS (G Balding) G Balding 7-10-7	D Jones 7
630	0-20410	KILLEEN (R Phelan) J C Fox 7-10-7	S Mullins 7
631	000p3-0	GROOVY (B) (A Soach) L Kennard 7-10-7	Mrs R Ross 7
632	000223	PICKLED TINK (Mrs C Richards) Mrs C Richards 5-10-7	Mrs L Sheedy
633	00-0002	LADY SWEETAPPLES (J Duffy) J Duffy 6-10-7	J Wyatt 7
635	1003-01	MARCUS AGRIPPA (E Allsopp) J Spearing 6-10-7	M Mann 7
636	000-002	HERALD HOLLIDOLLY (Mrs A Grantham) M Madgwick 5-10-7	T Grantham 7
637	00000/	NEWTOWN FAIRY (P Bowlby) P Bowlby 9-10-7	M Bowlby 7
638	p000p-0	MR NABRIG (G Roe) A Jarvis 5-10-7	G Roe
639	/0000-p	TRANSFORMATION (B Key) B Key 13-10-7	Miss D Key 7
640	004040/	ELA-KROSS (Mrs T Crocham) P Burgoyne 8-10-7	D Cochrane 7

9-4 Southdown Spirit, 3 Tangle Briar, 9-2 Hipparion, 6 Brando, 8 Blake, Party Miss, 10 Lord Leighton, Shernoon, 12 Marcus Agrippa, 14 others.

Ascot selections

By Our Racing Correspondent

1.30 Master Andrew. 2.0 Fifty Dollars More. 2.30 Mayotte. 3.0 Little Owl. 3.35 Seamus O'Flynn. 4.10 Blake.

Ludlow programme

1.15 BULL RING HURDLE (Div I: novices: £345: 2m) (18 runners)

1.45 NEENTON HURDLE (Selling handicap: £634: 2m) (20)

2.15 OTELEY CHASE (Hunters: £884: 3m) (20)

6	0/pf0-p	BAUNEEN OGE (J Morse) J Morse 8-11-7	B Eckley 4
8	3002/p4	CASH BONANZA (Mrs G Stead) Mrs G Stead 12-11-7	—
9		CEFN EXHAVEN (Miss P Blake) 10-11-7	N Babbage 4
12		FULIGINOUS (Miss S Brown) Miss S Brown 9-11-7	—
13	u0-	HURRICANE JULES (T Bailey) T Bailey 10-11-7	T Bailey 7
15	f3-	LITTLE ELSHAM (Mrs G Spratt) Mrs G Spratt 8-11-7	J Bryan 7
16	p	LONESOME PARK (B) (Mrs A Price) Mrs A Price 8-11-7	R [illegible]
17	p0-	LYNWOOD (Miss S Griffiths) Miss S Griffiths 10-11-7	N Oliver 7
18	up4p-2	MOONELLO (K Carter) K Carter 10-11-7	Miss A Doherty 7
19	p0-	PINE MELODY (R Barnett) R Barnett 9-11-7	B Price 7
20	0-	PIPE GATE (W Morgan) W Morgan 8-11-7	P Morgan 7
21	p-f	PRINCESS HECATE (P Davis) P Davis 7-11-7	Miss T Davis 7
22	2-rf043	RED LAD (W Owens) W Owens 11-11-7	A James 7
25	p0403p/	SALLY POTHEEN (P Sheppard) P Sheppard 12-11-7	P Sheppard 7
26	4/	SEINE BAY (Mrs B Perry) Mrs B Perry 10-11-7	Mrs C Perry 7
27	f	WESTANOVA (R Price) G Price 10-11-7	C Price 7

2 Last of the Foxes, 7-2 Little Elsham, 9-2 Seine Bay, 6 Red Lad, 8 Arctic Hero, 10 Bauneen Oge, 16 others.

2.45 BULL RING HURDLE (Div II: novices: £345: 2m) (18)

1		BROAD PRINCIPLE (A Twine) T Forster 5-11-5	H Davies
4	420	CUMBERLAND BASIN (J Spackman) J Edwards 5-11-5	P Blacker
10	pp-0p	LAST MOUNTAIN (C Hitchings) C Hitchings 5-11-5	—
11		LE SARTHOIS (Mrs S Davenport) Mrs Davenport 5-11-5	P Warner
12	00	LICHFIELD (D Vizer) P Ransom 5-11-5	B R Davies
13	00	LILIAN MAY (E Evans) E Evans 5-11-5	J Suthern
15	20	MOTIVATE (Miss P Schooling) G Kindersley 5-11-5	B McGarrigle 7
16	4p-000	MR MYNO (G Buckingham-Bawden) J S Wright 5-11-5	A O'Hagan 4
20	00	SAMANTHA DANE (Mrs S Snow) D H Jones 5-11-5	C Seward 4
23	00-	TAF (D Davies) J Bradley 5-11-5	G Davies 4
24	100	SOLARIUM (Mrs A Carey) D Carey 4-10-11	M Williams
25	2040	ATLANTA LADY (A Ridout) A Ridout 4-10-4	P Hobbs
28	000	COMEDIAN (The Lady Vestey) D Nicholson 4-10-4	S Smith-Eccles

3.15 TENBURY CHASE (Novice handicap: £896: 2½m) (14)

3.45 KNIGHTON CHASE (Handicap: £1,341: 2m) (13)

4.15 BULL RING HURDLE (Div III: novices: £345: 2m) (18)

Ludlow selections

By Michael Seeley

1.15 Top Reef. 1.45 Indian Pool. 2.15 Ballytartar. 2.45 Cumberland Basin. 3.15 Romany Nightshade. 3.45 Master Sport. 4.15 Barley Brake.

Carlisle

Going: good to soft

1.15 (1.16) KIRKLINTON CHASE (Div I: novices: £862: 2½m)

MELEREK, ch g by Menelek — Maureen Og (Mrs D. King) 7-11-0 C. Tinkler (5-1) 1
Royal Minstrel ... Mr J. Walton (12-1) 2
Milton Regis ... D. Nolan (7-1) 3

TOTE: Win, 48p; places, 15p, 26p, 39p.

TOTE: Win, £2.10; places, 32p, 32p, 93p. Dual F: £10.61. CSF: £6.25. Tricast: £94.42. Mrs A. Cousins at Carnforth. 3l, ½l. Edwards Corner (20-1) 4th. 28 ran. Nr: Slaney Sid.

2.15 BICKERTON CHASE (Handicap: £1,564: 2m)

BIG GINGER ch g by Pinsun-Henrietta Georgina (P. Baillie) 8-11-6 A. Brown (7-2 fav) 1.
Easby Gold ... D. Atkins (15-2) 2.

Narvik in form for Newcastle date

By Michael Seely

Narvik showed superb fightg qualities to win the George Coney challenge cup on a glorious sunny afternoon at Warwick yesterday. When Peter Warner sent Spring Rocket clear seven fences from home the race looked all over. However, approaching the straight Narvik started to close the gap. Sill three lengths adrift jumpinng the last fence, Lady Caogan's 1980 Wlsh Grand National winner refused to give up and Colin Hawkins forced the horse's head in front close from home to win by a head, with The Vintner 12 lengths away third, Lucky Vane, the 5-2 favourite, was always struggling and could only plod through beaten horses to take fourth place.

Narvik's trainer Neville Crump, has already won three Grand Nationals with Sheila's Cottage, Merryman II and Teal. However, Narvik has not even been entered at Aintree. "Narvik has to have heavy ground" Hawkins said. "They would always be going too fast for him at Liverpool".

In the absdeence of trhe trainer, Hawkins, who looked more exhausted than his mount, thought that Narvik might go for Newcastle's Eider Chase on Saturday week. The Eider is also the target for the third horse, The Vintner. "Robert Earnshaw said that the old horse started gurgling half a mile from home. He needed the race badly and this will have put him right for Newcastle. After that we will be off to Aintree again".

Earlier in the afternoon, Ernshaw had ridden his 13th winner of the season when driving Braven to a length-and-a-half victory over Ballyross in the Princethorpe Handicap Steeplechase. After the race Michael Dickinson's jockey was called before the stewards and fined £25 for excessive use of the whip. Watching the camera patrol film afterwards, it was clear that the authorities were justified in their decision as the jockey had hit Braven 11 times on the quarters, on the run home from the last fence. Dickinson was not at Warwick but his father, Tony, said: "It was so unlike the lad. The chief thing about Robert is that he is such a skilful and sensitive horseman". And so indeed he is. Earnshaw's handling of Bregawn and Waywrd Lad has earnt the 23-year-old jockey praise from all sides this season. However, yesterday both horses were very tired and Earnshaw's determination to win at all costs must have overcome his discretion. One thing that is certain is that he will learn from this lesson and will not repeat his error.

We saw two useful youg hurdlers in action. In the first division of the Ryton novices hurdle Sympatique would have beaten Wally Wombat far more easily but for nearly knocking the last two flights out of the ground. "This is a useful horse," said Nick Gaselee. "I do not know whether he is good enough for Cheltenham. He needs to brush up his jumping a bit. We will probably run Sympatique at Folkestone in a fortnight's time and then make a decision about the big races later on."

Gavin Pritchard-Johnson was equally realistic after Steve Smith-Eccles had brought The Disco Dago home five lengths clear of John Francome, and Blare, in the second division of this race. Blare seemed somewhat reluctant when put under pressure, but there was no mistaking the air of authority behind the winner's final sprint.

"The Disco Dago will probably go for the Philip Cornes final at Newbury on March 6, which is sponsored by his owner, Robert Heathcote. The four year old is probably about 8lb below top class and we shall have to think about Cheltenham after Newbury".

Warwick results

Going: heavy

1.30 (1.32) RYTON HURDLE (Div I: 4-y-o novices: £690: 2m)

SYMPATIQUE b c, by Simbir — Fun of the Fair, (R Graham) 11-3 M Floyd (5-2 fav) 1
Wally Wombat ... P Scudamore (100-30) 2
Uppety ... H Davies (7-2) 3

TOTE: Win, 37p; places, 15p, 12p, 20p; Dual F: 39p. CSF: £1.04. N Gaselee at Lambourn. Nk, 30l. Cambrey Lad (33-1) 4th. 13 ran.

2.0 (2.1) PRINCETHORPE CHASE (Handicap: £1,468: 2½m)

BRAVEN b g, by New Brig — Strathaven (Mrs M Haggas) 8-10-3 R Earnshaw (9-4) 1
Ballyross ... H Davies (7-2) 2
Lloydsman ... K Mooney (9-1) 3

Gymnastics

Britain opposes the IOC stand on drugs

By Peter Aykroyd

The request by the International Olympic Committee meeting in Los Angeles last week that the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG), the world governing body, should investigate drug abuse as a prerequisite to the 1984 Olympic Games, has been dismissed as unnecessary by senior British officials.

Franklyn Edmonds, president of the British Amateur Gymnastic Association, and vice-president of the FIG, said: "In the lack of any basic evidence, it is sheer conjecture to assume that drugs are taken by gymnasts." The conviction in some circles that the use of drugs is commonplace among East European gymnasts, in particular, was strengthened at the 1978 world championships in Strasbourg. Gymnastics favours small girls of elfin build and some women gymnasts from the Soviet Union and Romania attracted attention.

Dr Robert Klein, chief medical examiner at the championships, said he believed that some Soviet girls were being given a drug to retard puberty. The drug could not be identified, but it was thought that it acted on the pituitary gland. Dr Klein added that he had seen a series of photographs of a Soviet gymnast in which her breast development appeared not only to have slowed down, but reversed.

Since then, neither Dr Klien, nor any other authority, has produced medical evidence to support these theories. Random doping tests were conducted by the FIG last November at the world championships in Moscow and no case of drug-taking by male or female gymnasts came to light.

The BAGA is definite on its attitude to drugs and is emphatic that gymnastics does not need to use the Sports Council's drug testing centre at Chelsea. Tony Murdoch, the BAGA's development director, said: "Our doctor says that there is no known drug that would help a gymnast. He knows of no drug that would not either disorientate or seriously harm a competitor. Even if the boys took steroids to build up their bodies, it would affect their sense of balance and timing."

Few British doctors would cooperate in prescribing any form of drug to improve the performances of young gymnasts.

What, then, produces the many gymnasts who dominate the world's major championships? The answer is a carefully contolled diet combined with a tough physical programme. The strength-to-weight ratio of a gymnast's body is of vital importance and dietry discipline is necsary to keep weight in check.

If a high protein diet, linked with great physical effort, is applied to a girl before puberty, her physical development can be delayed slightly. Mr Murdoch said: "Some Eastern Block gymnasts are meticulous in their concern to keep their weight down. The result is that instead of having the average 15 per cent fat on their bodies, their percentage is about seven and this retards their growth." Young ballet dancers can also experience much the same condition.

No instances of drug-taking among gymnasts in Britain have been reported to date nor have any examples of drug abuse abroad come to the attention of the BAGA. However, the FIG, taken by surpise in Los Angeles, may be forced to set up a medical panel on drug-taking to relieve pressure, not only by the IOC and other sports organizations, but also by Western media.

Hockey

Neston to travel again

By Sydney Friskin

Neston, the Cheshire Cup holders, have earned the reputation of being the most travelled club in English hockey, not having drawn a home match in the national championship since its inception ten years ago. They are due to play at Bromley or St Albans in the quarter-final round on February 21.

Bromley were at home last Sunday to St Albans but the match was not played because of the bad weather in which the two sides become engulfed after the reservation of an alternative ground at Crystal Palace had earlier been cancelled. The deluge, which made play impossible at Bromley, began at about 11 am, and to make matters worse, the competitions delegate, for various reasons, arrived on the scene too late to make a decision. However, the match is scheduled to be played this Sunday at St Albans.

Bishop's Stortford, from the premier division of the East League, who caused the only surprise last week by beating Reading, a London League club, have drawn an away match at Derby, and Slough, the holders, have to travel to the West Country to play Isca.

The draw for the quarter-final round of the county championship, sponsored by Rank Xerox, was also announced at a press conference called by the Hockey Association in London yesterday. The two surviving southern counties, Surrey and Buckinghamshire, have both drawn away matches. Surrey will play Yorkshire at Sheffield this Sunday, and Buckinghamshire, last season's runners-up, will meet Cambridgeshire at Fenner's.

It was confirmed at the conference that Great Britain's application to take part in the 1984 Olympic Games at Los Angeles would be submitted by December 31, 1983.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Quarter-final round: Suffolk v Nottinghamshire; Yorkshire v Surrey; Gloucestershire v Cheshire; Cambridgeshire v Buckinghamshire.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Second round: Olton and West Warwick v Southgate, Derby v Bishop's Stortford; Richmond v Preston; Hounslow v Maidenhead; Bromley or St Albans v Neston; Blueharts v Fareham; Isca v Slough; RAF Strike Command v Nottingham.

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LINGUISTS PLUS!

Superb FRENCH. Good English shorthand and administrative skills for design consultants WC1 to £7,000.

Organised ad numerate Senior Secretary with fluent FRENCH for oil company SW1 to £8,000.

SPANISH-speaking secretary with some ITALIAN for city firm. No shorthand, but fast typing essential. £6,200 plus.

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES
22 Charing Cross Rd, WC2
01-836 3794/5
(Recruitment Consultants).

MOVE INTO MARKETING
£6,500 + PROSPECTS

Dynamism, professionalism, and enthusiasm are the main requirements of an extrovert marketing manager who seeks a soul mate. If advertising and PR. are your forte, your secretarial skills are adequate then telephone Kim Russell on 629 7262 for an immediate interview.

7 Princes St., W1



Executive of London based International Finance House requires experienced

SECRETARY

with shorthand and audio skills. A mature person aged between 25 and 40 will find this an interesting and demanding appointment.
Salary negotiable at around £6,000.
Telephone 638 4781 extension 31.

TOKYO
SMALL INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANY REQUIRES P.A./SEC.

for Head of Far East Operations. One year contract renewable. Cheerful flexible personality. Good shorthand typing skills + telex. Company flat. Salary approx. £13,000 p.a. Contact Annie Pellister Agency Ltd. 01-588 9225

ENGINEERING COMPANY IN OFFSHORE OIL INDUSTRY

Require Senior Secretary for Project Manager and his team of engineers. IBM and Display Writer experience an advantage plus high standard of shorthand/typing and secretarial skills. Very good salary and prospects.
Please send CV to:
Anne Michell,
J. P. Kenny & Partners Ltd.,
88/89 High Holborn,
London WC1V 6LS,
or telephone:
831 6644
for an application form.

NON SECRETARIAL CAREER
SALARY NEG

Seeking a challenge? We are looking for a self-motivated and business minded person to organise and develop a team of top temporary staff. This is a demanding position which will require you to work largely unsupervised, co-ordinating the needs of many very busy clients and many highly skilled "temps". Previous experience not essential though sound commercial background is. Phone Linda Bentham on 734 0917.
Drake Personnel Consultants
Someone to believe in.

P.A. WITH PROSPECTS

You'll be expected to build this job near Tower Hill and the varied duties include meeting and greeting clients and dealing with salaries and petty cash.

Responsible to 2 Directors. Salary £7,000+. Shorthand or audio but very little of either.

City 377 8600
West End 439 7001

Secretaries Plus
The Secretarial Consultants

NEWS FLASH!

We are welcoming more top PA/Secretaries with good speeds to our famous Temporary Staff now! Highest rates, stimulating asignments and your cheque in the current week!
JOYCE GUINESS BUREAU
21 Brompton Arcade
Knightsbridge SW3
01-589 8807/0010
THE Recruitment Consultants

ORDER IN THE COURT
£6,000

Young Legal Secretary preferably with a little litigation experience required for position involving criminal and divorce cases.
BARNETT PERSONNEL LEGAL
(Rec Con)
629 7838

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO P.R. EXECUTIVE

Advanced shorthand typing, telex skills essential. Must be able to work under pressure. Salary negotiable. Phone: Eileen Lowne on 01-499 0691.

SENIOR SECRETARY

required by partners of qualified Estate Agents and Surveyors in Park Lane, W1.
Please apply in writing to:
G. E. Sturgis,
PO Box 54,
London SW13.

CITY SECRETARY
£6,700

This highly successful Trading Company seek a Secretary/P.A. to effectively handle Senior Secretarial and P.R. duties. A significant part of the job involves the arrangement of in-house functions plus important social events.

W1 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY—£7,000

Join this well known oil company as Executive Secretary to the Gen. Mgr., responsible for special projects. This is a rewarding position for a flexible and outgoing person with initiative.

MERCHANT BANKING
£7,000

A good command of English is vital as P.A./Secretary to the Deputy M.D. of this major international bank. He is very involved in business promotions and needs a capable outgoing Secretary to whom he can delegate.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
18 Grosvenor Street London W1
Telephone 01-499 2921

SLOANE SQUARE AREA MATURE PERSONAL SEC./P.A. (Age 35-45)

The Head of a major public company seeks an experienced Sec/P.A. accustomed to working at a similar level and to dealing with both personal and business matters.

Apart from the customary secretarial duties the person appointed will undertake a large amount of personal work including the maintenance of household accounts, ordering supplies and the preparation of a small amount of wages. The Director also devotes some of his time to various charitable organisations and there will be some secretarial work in this connection. A competitive salary is offered together with company benefits and applications should be made to: Peter Holwill, Wetton Staff Consultants Ltd., 43 Cadogan St., London SW3. Telephone: 01-581 1254. Telephone: 01-581 1254 or 01-581 1701 between 6-8.30.

CHAIRMAN'S SECRETARY/P.A.
£7,000

The business is textiles and you know the name. It's also 30 or 40 subsidiary cos. and other related interests. And, as you'd expect, the Chairman of this lot is a pretty complex, as well as strong, personality. But yes, sir, no, sir, three bags full, sir, is out. You have to stand up for yourself, keep your head when all around etcetera, be able to arrange board meetings, deal with people (nice ones, of whom you'll see a lot) and work on your own initiative half the time. In short, function as the senior secretary/P.A. you are, with all the skills to match. Beautiful modern offices, hard by Marble Arch. Ring now:

01-734 7282

01-734 7282
MARY OVERTON
RECRUITMENT LIMITED
35 Piccadilly, London W1V 9PB

£6,250 SENIOR SECRETARY

required for busy associate partner with large firm of surveyors. Working at their head office in Mayfair, you should have good secretarial skills (no s/h as audio is used instead and an ability to mix with people at all levels. Age 25+. For more details of this interesting position call Jane on 01-637 4868.

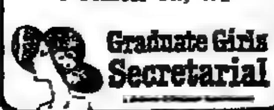
TEMPS £3.50

If you have speeds of 100/60 plus we have plenty of interesting assignments.
Plus One Appointments
01-637 4868

INVITATION TO ALL PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY SECRETARIES

Join us for a pizza lunch on Friday, 12th February, between 12.30 and 2.30 pm. Telephone us on 629 7262 to make a reservation.

7 Princes St., W1



COVENT GARDEN

Young energetic and busy Consultant. Office in Covent Garden seek Audio Secretary willing to take on many varied duties. Our requirements are that you must be willing to work hard and be able to cope with pressure. Salary c £6,000 + overtime for a 40 hour week.

Telephone Michelle
01-240 5464

BRAZILIAN BANK

opening in London requires a top Secretary P.A. to assist the U.K. representative.
Fluent English and Portuguese essential with experience in banking most useful. Successful applicant—£9,000-£12,000.
Noel Alexander Associates
01-[illegible]
(Emp. Agy.)

Secretary/PA to Managing Director

c. £6,500 neg. Victoria

The Managing Director of our Executive Research Operation wishes to appoint a first class Secretary to assist him in his work.

You will be involved in the full range of secretarial duties including confidential correspondence and liaison with clients, candidates and other parts of the Group.

Probably in the age range 35-45 you will have excellent secretarial skills and several years' experience at a senior level.

We offer a salary c. £6,500, 50p day L.V.s and a friendly working environment.

Please telephone Sarah Hazell on 01-493 3551 or send career details to: ASL Recruitment Advertising, 17 Stratton St., London W1X 6DB.

MSL
International Management Consultants
52 Grosvenor Gardens London SW1W 0AW

SECRETARY
American Advertising Agency in Knightsbridge

Secretary-administrative back-up at Director level. Calls for good accurate typing, some shorthand, organisational skills and a flexible approach to working within a team. We offer a good salary and BUPA. If you are aged 21+ with a good education, 2 years secretarial experience and have a lively personality. A knowledge of a European language would also be useful but not essential.

For further information please telephone Julia Swinburne on 01-584 1752.

ASSISTANT TO MANAGING DIRECTOR
AGE 22-25 UP TO £7,000

We are a firm of Executive recruitment consultants based in the City, associated with a major international company.

Our Managing Director is looking for an assistant to manage assignments, including liaison with both clients and candidates. To qualify for the post you should have education to 'A' level standard; excellent secretarial skills; enjoy working as part of a small team and be an enthusiastic personality.

For further information please telephone me, Sarah Smith, on 488 0155. (BDC International Limited).

SENIOR SECRETARY

Nationally known North London import and export company require a thoroughly experienced Secretary to work with its senior management.

Suitable applicants will be fully experienced in working at director level, wish to accept responsibility and participate in a general office routine. Excellent package of benefits is offered for career orientated applicants.

RING 906 0316

Recruitment Consultants

RECEPTIONIST £6,000
For fast moving expanding P.R. consultancy. Excellent presentation, little typing, telex an advantage. Must be well spoken and want scope to really assist.

P.A. ADVERTISING RECRUITMENT £6,000
Superb role with loads of involvement dealing with clients, new business, etc. Good organiser, shorthand and typing.

MEDIA ASSISTANT/TYPIST £5,000
Excellent career opportunity for bright second jobber in a media buying house. Needs good presentation and fast accurate typing.

P.A. ADVERTISING £5,800
Involving role in a fast moving ad agency for team of execs. Ability to work under pressure and have advertising background. Phone Linette Boniface or Katy Lawrence on 01-493 6458.

8 Blenheim Street London W1 adpower communications

MAYFAIR TELEPHONIST
£5,000++++++

Those plus signs in our headline indicate a whole mass of good news about this Property Restoration Company. An absolutely exquisite reception area, a relaxed unhurried atmosphere delightful colleagues and excellent "company social events". The range of benefits include free lunch, BUPA, generous savings help and even mortgage assistance. If you have switchboard experience don't miss this one.

Bernadette of Bond St.
Recruitment Consultants
No. 55, (next door to Fenwicks)
01-629 1204

EXPORT ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR
£7,000 negotiable

Small export company based in S.W.7 seek person with good all round export experience. Must also be career orientated and numerate with good secretarial skills. Aged 26-40. Salary negotiable, depending on experience.
Call Janine Robinson on 370 6649
(No agencies please)

BANKING SECS
£6,500 + 21 + MORTGAGE SUB

A number of positions are available for Sn. Secs (100/60) with banking exp. If you are looking for a stable career with room for scope and progression phone:
Michael Katz,
Barnett Banking Recruitment,
[illegible]
(A division of Barnett Personnel Ltd)

P.A. Secretary
(AUDIO)

for Director of new small Consultancy. Essential qualities are good skills, and experience and the savoir faire to deal with VIPs. Chancery Lane. £7,000 pa. Phone Mr R. Wythe, 242 2101.

CALL US . . .

If you are seriously career minded, 25-40ish, have commercial and/or Executive Search experience, organising ability, initiative and desire to participate fully in small business on one-to-one basis with Principal in order to assist expansion. Good shorthand-typing essential but personal qualities paramount. SW1. Sal. around £9,000 p.a. a.a.e.
JOYCE GUINESS
589 8807/0010
Recruitment Consultants

£9,000

The Chairman of a large public company operating worldwide needs a P.A./Secretary. Superb organizing skills are required to arrange a very full programme of business appointments and social events. Age 30-40.

Directors' Secretaries
Tel: 01-629 9323

ADVERTISING AGENCY CHAIRMAN'S SECRETARY/P.A.
£6,500

West End location.
Age 23—30.
Non-smoker essential.
Call Mrs. Percival on: 01-723 1233

P.A./SECRETARY MAYFAIR

Required for the head of a young and friendly professional firm of international activities. This is a job for a lively, intelligent and conscientious person with initiative, 23-30, willing and able to work in senior position and become the boss's right hand. Varied work, shorthand required. Salary c £7,000.

Tel: 629 0069

LEGAL V.I.P.
£6,500+

Senior Partner (he handles most aspects of the Legal field) requires an enthusiastic PA/Secretary aged 24-35 to work alongside him. Varied position including personal contact with famous clientele. Minimum of 3 years legal background.
BARNETT PERSONNEL LEGAL
(Rec Con)
629 7838

WELL KNOWN CENTRAL LONDON ESTATE AGENT

requires capable and energetic Receptionist
Contact Sarah Roberts: [illegible]
(previous experience preferred)

SECRETARY/PA TO SENIOR PARTNER—CITY

The Senior Partner of a major international firm of Chartered Surveyors requires a Secretary/P.A., aged 25-45, to undertake both the efficient running of his office and his secretarial work.

Excellent shorthand and typing skills are essential as is experience of office procedure and management on a professional level and a knowledge of accounts. The work is demanding but the salary and benefits (including profit share and BUPA) reflect the importance of this position. Please telephone

Julie Bechelli on
01-236 1520 for further details
(No Agencies)

SECRETARY/AIR STEWARD/ESS

Age 24 to 35 required for this demanding but very interesting position with an international group of companies. Although working mainly in their London offices there is a certain amount of flying involved on their executive aircraft. This position will suit someone prepared to work flexible hours. This vacancy will be offered to a career-minded person who has an outstanding past record and who is bi-lingual in both English and French. Only applicants with experience in both office work and flying need apply.
An excellent salary and other benefits commensurate with the position offered.
Please send curriculum vitae and names of 3 referees to.

Box 1079 G, The Times

PA/ASSISTANT PERSONNEL

Our Client, based just to the West of London, needs someone who's mentally energetic, used to working on their own initiative, and happy to join a small personnel team whose commitment to the job sometimes borders on the paranoid. A fast accurate typist is essential and shorthand would be a bonus but they are interested in someone who can become involved across the board in contracts of employment, salary administration, recruitment, job grading and manpower statistics. To survive we think you'll need to be over 25, looking for something non-routine and with the ability to adapt to any given situation, and above all have an advanced sense of humour.
Please send full details to: Sue Rogers, Ref. 93, Ketchum Specialist Advertising Ltd., 52 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4LX.

BI-LINGUAL SECRETARY—£7000 + BENEFITS

The charming manager of this famous international company in West London, needs a French-speaking bilingual secretary with excellent skills, to help him run a U.K. subsidiary company. You must be willing, versatile and have a delightful personality in order to excel as a vital member of his small team. Excellent grooming and a good education are essential. Age 25+. Please telephone Suzannah de Berniere,

493 5787
GORDON YATES LTD.
35 Old Bond St., London, W1
(Staff Consultants)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY £7500 WEYBRIDGE

Our Managing Director needs an Executive Secretary to join the executive team and assist him in running his office.

The Company manufactures and imports scientific instruments and systems and will shortly be relocating to new premises in the Weybridge vicinity.

Top flight secretarial skills (literacy, numeracy, shorthand, impeccable typing) are a must, plus a real ability to organise and work on own initiative. Willingness to work late as necessary is essential, and the career prospects are outstanding for a capable motivated man or woman.

Please telephone, in first instance, our General Office Manager, Mr Ramdarshan on Weybridge 55721.

D. A. Pitman Limited, Jessamy Road, Weybridge, Surrey.

Advertising £7,700

This prestigious Advertising Agency, well known for its creativity needs a well presented and intelligent Secretary for the Managing Director and Deputy Managing Director. Age 25-33. Speeds 100/60.

21+ £5,000 Sports Promotion

This small and highly successful firm of sports promotion organisers, based in SW1, needs an excellent Secretary/PA to assist in their very busy calendar of events. You will need immaculate skills and presentation to cope with a hectic and involving programme. Age 21-25. Speeds 110/60.

Angela Mortimer Ltd
Recruitment Consultants
166 Piccadilly
629 9686



History of Art
c. £5,500

This International Publishing House is looking for an experienced young secretary with A levels and good shorthand and typing. The work includes lots of contacts with photographers, galleries, museums, authors and picture researchers. Knowledge of languages an advantage.

Bernadette of Bond St.
Recruitment Consultants
No. 55, (next door to Fenwicks)
01-629 1204

SPECIALIST IN MARKET RESEARCH
£6,500 + PROFIT SHARING

A firm of International Consultants specializing in market research and human resources are seeking a top flight secretary with W.P. 82 word processing experience. If you are well-presented and highly articulate call

David Paton on
629 7262 immediately
7 Princes St., W1

Graduate Girls Secretarial

SECRETARY TO MD AND FD

Successful computer services company in WC2. Must be intelligent, down to earth with excellent typing and some shorthand.

Please apply
Wendy de Cardo,
Hoskyns Group Ltd., on
01-242 1951

ESTATE AGENTS KENSINGTON

require bright young Secretary for Investment Department.
Salary c. £4,750 p.a.
Tel: 221 2929

LAMBETH PALACE

Experienced secretary needed for Chaplain to Archbishop of Canterbury. Work involves wide contacts with scope for responsibility and initiative. Fast shorthand typing speeds and ability to use audio equipment essential.

Please write giving full details to the Archbishop's Secretary, Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU.

HUNDRED PER CENT . . .

. . . completely dedicated Sec/P.A. for Board Director of Public Company. Only first class applicants. Salary, of course, commensurate with this kind of dedication but applicants earning less than £8,000 are unlikely to be of the calibre required. Age 25-32.
Phone Mrs. Byzantine
222 5091
NORMA SKEMP
Personnel Services Ltd
14 Broadway SW1

Sarah Hodge

TELE SALES
£6,000 + + +

Name your worth at this fast paced famous name. You're confident of your tele-sales ability and now seek a move to pastures new. Deal with existing prospective clients—increase your earning potential substantially as you are looking for a step up from your last tele-sales position.
Call Bernadette on
499 7781

Recruitment Consultants
115 New Bond Street, London W1

STOCKBROKER REQUIRES

Secretary shorthand typist, EC2, 9.30-4.30, 4 days a week or full week. Stock Exchange experience an asset. Salary negotiable according to hours, age and experience.
Please telephone 638 4523 or after 6 p.m. 602 5065.

Conference Interpreters Group

Requires administrator to man office. Must be quick thinking, happy to work alone, have organising ability, excellent telephone manner and secretarial skills. Salary £6,000 + incentive scheme. Apply: Box 1384 G, The Times.

SECRETARY

Interesting position for a confidential Secretary. No shorthand, aged 21-35 for Senior Partner of Chartered Surveyors in Bloomsbury. Salary c.£5,500 + benefits.
Ring: Gould & Company.
01-637 [illegible]

c. £8,000 p.a. BI-LINGUAL SECRETARY 30-45
WEST LONDON nr. HEATHROW

The Managing Director of a UK subsidiary of a well established international group is looking for an experienced Bi-Lingual Secretary with outstanding technical and organisational skills. The position involves a high standard of shorthand and typewriting in both German and English, some translation as well as the general administration of a busy office.

The duties call for initiative and resourcefulness; in addition to dealing with visitors and routine business appointments, travel planning and hotel bookings, there is the intensive telephone and telex traffic associated with a world-wide organisation.

Applicants, male or female, must have at least 5 years' experience gained at director level in industry or commerce, possess the RSA Stage III Typewriting qualification and have the maturity, discretion and personal presentation needed at this level.

Excellent conditions of employment including 4 weeks holiday rising with service to 5 weeks, car scheme, contributory pension scheme with life assurance and permanent health insurance. Subsidised restaurant.

Please reply with full personal and career details to:

Box No. 1372 G, The Times

The Royal College of Radiologists requires a Secretary

To work 4 days a week for the Examinations Secretary and to be involved in arranging visits by College Representatives to Hospital training departments.

The successful applicant will need to have good secretarial skills, the ability to work well as part of a small team, and be able to work on own initiative on a variety of duties. Salary will be pro-rata according to age and experience on the Whitley Council Scale £6,019 to £7,206 inclusive of London waiting. 4 weeks annual holiday, LV's, season ticket loan, Christmas bonus. Pleasant working environment in Central London.

Applications in writing to the Examinations Secretary, The Royal College of Radiologists, 38 Portland Place, London W1N 3DG.

SECRETARY TO CHAIRMAN
INTERNATIONAL GROUP

First class experienced private and confidential secretary required by Chairman of a large international Group located in Mayfair. This is an attractive opportunity which arises due to the retirement of the present incumbent. The position is likely to appeal to a mature person who has had considerable experience in a similar role. Duties include liaison with high level business contacts, therefore personality, reliability and communicating skills are important requisites.

An excellent salary is offered together with fringe benefits, including company pension.

Applications in strict confidence to: H. R. N. Jamieson, Director of Corporate Affairs, Pritchard Services Group PLC, 11 Stanhope Gate, London W1Y 5LB.

£10,000 – £12,000

A Secretary/P.A. is required for the Chairman (aged 37) of a public company based in Windsor. The company has developed rapidly over the past 4 years (employees 1978—150; 1982—3,500). It is appreciated that full details cannot be provided in an advertisement but preliminary enquiries are sought from those who feel that they could command a salary of between £10,000-£12,000 per annum plus car and other benefits.

Please reply to: The Chairman,
Box 1080 G, The Times

ASALAW SECS

Perm Vacs: Min 4 yrs legal exp. Age scale: 24-40 yrs.
1. Comp. Comm Tax Partner, EC2. Audio 24+. £6,925.
2. Comp. Comm Law Partner, W1. SH. 25-30. £6,500.
3. General Law, Partner, WC1. SH. 35-45. £7,500.
4. Trust Personal, Partner, EC2. SH. 35-45. £7,500.
5. Comp. Law, Partner, EC4. SH. 25-30. £7,000.
6. Property Partner, EC4. Audio 25-35. £6,750.
7. Conv. Comm. Partner, NW1. Audio imm. £7,500.
8. Company Partner, EC2. SH. 24-30. £7,500.

ASA LAW SECS
Ring Tony Boyce
Director & Manager
ASALAW SECS.
01-623 5725
Agy.

N.S.P.C.C.
PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Required by Child Abuse Consultant. Responsible position requiring good secretarial skills, liaison at all levels, research, lecture preparation, committee administration. The post will suit someone (24-35) with a medical/social background with relevant interests and the ability to work on own initiative. Commencing salary within £5,979-£7,248 inc. London Weighting. Apply in writing with full particulars to Office Manager, 3 Riding House Street, London W1P 8AA.

TOTAL P.A.
£7,000 + +

Would you enjoy a top level executive position based in the West End. A dynamic forward thinking company requires a first-class P.A. In return they offer total involvement, a busy varied day, and ask for minimum use of your secretarial skills.
PATRICIA ALBISTON on
629 7262 today.
7 Princes Street, W1.

Graduate Girls Secretarial

£6,500 NEG. W.2

P.A./Sec. 25-30, free to travel. Able to set up new offices. Self-reliant and extremely good with people. Interesting position for somebody who likes to be out and about. Phone Miller & McNish 320 Regent St. [illegible]
Recruitment Consultants.

La Crème
SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
For temporary assignments.
01-836 4086

Classified Advertising 01-837 3311

ADMIN SEC
22 YEARS PLUS TO £6,800 + MORTGAGE

A substantial international bank requires a young but experienced shorthand secretary who is capable of giving a total administrative and secretarial back-up to a small team of young investment advisers. The work is varied and will include considerable client and inter-departmental liaison, the ability to use own initiative and to enjoy the occasional bursts of pressure is important. Excellent fringe benefits including paid overtime.
01-499 9175

MacBlain NASH
Recruitment Consultants

PA/ADMIN
c. £8,500 + bonus

Our client, a rapidly expanding firm of Lloyds Brokers in EC3, seeks a PA for the Director of Administration & Personnel. The ideal candidate will be aged 25-30, outgoing, articulate and discreet, of A level or above calibre and with a stable job record preferably including senior level City experience. About 25% of the workload will be secretarial for which you will need speeds of 100/60. Please telephone Mary Battams.

Career plan 734 4284 Recruitment Consultants

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
Central London
Housing Trust for The Aged

Would like to employ a versatile and experienced personal assistant to the Manager at around £6,000 + LV's. Offices next to Green Park tube. Duties include shorthand and/or audio typing and administrative tasks.

Telephone 493 4433
Ext. 223

P.S. PERSONAL SECRETARY

EC1 to £7,000

Position in multi national company's UK operations HQ, working for Director. Superb opportunity for top-level PA-Secretary to display initiative and ability to cope. Shorthand not essential. Subsidised travel.

Phone now for immediate interview on 01-405 6525, Reed Employment.

AIMEZ VOUS LE BRIE?

We are looking for a versatile self-motivated organized professional secretary. We are a small fast growing company in French cheese business. A sense of humour, fluent French, aptitude with figures, pleasant telephone manner are essential. Salary £5,500 neg. Ring: Jane on 01-658 0074.

هكذا من الأصل

Recruitment Opportunities

Residential Property by Rupert Morris

You should have a little list

Those of us trying to sell property at the moment need all the help we can get. No doubt there are plenty of buyers, too, who would appreciate a more customer-conscious approach than most estate agents provide.

It would be useful if houses and flats for sale were listed by area and clearly categorized — 1 bed, 2 bed, garden, etc — so that the reader could run his finger down the page and quickly pick out the properties that interest him.

Of course, estate agents aim to provide that kind of service with their lists, but if you want to comb an area properly, you will probably have to go to quite a few agents and scan newspaper property advertisements. And what seller wouldn't like to avoid paying agents' fees?

Mrs Irene Large, who lives in Hammersmith, is about to launch a new house buying and selling service called the Property File which could ultimately save all parties both time and money.

It will cost £8 to advertise in the file for a month, and £36 for six months. The property file will be advertised, and sent free of charge to prospective buyers.

It is not a new idea, of course. There are computer-based home finding services. Most are more expensive than the Property File, and Mrs Large believes that many people are prejudiced against computers.

Certainly I know of nothing operating in West London in quite the same way as the Property File aims to do. It was an idea that occurred to Mrs Large as she was contemplating her own redundancy from her time-share flat in Clovelly, Devon, last October.



Never believe those who say that titles cannot be bought. For offers of more than £250,000 the purchaser of Walreddon Manor at Tavistock will earn himself the title Lord of the Manor along with 90 acres of shooting rights.

Besides this honour, the grade two listed manor house offers four reception rooms, seven bedrooms, four bathrooms, kitchen and games room. Agents are Knight Frank & Rutley and Kivell & Sons.

After 20 years as an interior designer, she had joined a carpet firm to develop a furnishing fabric department, when like so many others she fell victim to the recession and found herself redundant.

A file for each of four areas

She had bought four weeks a year in a time-sharing scheme, and wanted to sell some of her share. She thought how useful it would be if there were a time-sharing directory that would make it easier to buy and sell. Then she thought: why just a file or directory for time-sharing? Why not for buying and selling property of all kinds?

Mrs Large's first aim was to find enough sellers to be able to produce a respectable file. After several weeks of following up advertisements and travellling round noting down houses with for sale signs displayed, she now believes she can produce a file for each of four areas with at least 50 houses or flats for sale.

Not surprisingly, she found it difficult to persuade people to part with money in advance. But reduced introductory rates seem to be attracting more people. The initial rate is £4 for a month, and only £12 for the first six months.

Even an estate agent, who might have been expected to regard the Property File as a rival, has paid to advertise, and asked to be sent the file. Mrs Large will offer agents a 10 per cent discount, and hopes to attract some of the smaller ones who need to advertise more widely — although it is hard to see why any agents should wish to deal with something like the property file, which might deprive them of their commission.

Mrs Large is restricting her activities at the moment to four areas: Mayfair, Kensington and Bayswater; Notting Hill, Maida Vale and Paddington; Ealing and Acton; Hammersmith and Chiswick. Later she may also try to cover Chelsea, Fulham, Putney and Barnes.

She has two part-time helpers, who spend most of their time either contacting people by telephone or sending off details to prospective advertisers. Eventually, she hopes, she may be able to delegate the whole business.

It now seems that she will be able to produce her first property files for those four chosen areas. The acid test will be whether she can attract enough buyers.

Mrs Large hopes to reach buyers by advertising regularly in both national and local newspapers. She also believes that most sellers are also thinking of buying property, and will, therefore, want to look at the property file for the appropriate area.

If she is right, and her venture works, it will be a splendid example of enterprise springing out of redundancy, which could be emulated all over the country, and abroad.

It could also be a more than useful aid to home buyers and sellers.

The Property File is administered from Mrs Large's home at 9 Samels Court, Upper Mall, W6 (Tel: 748 0832).

Overseas Property

Readers are strongly advised to seek legal advice before parting with any money or signing any agreement to acquire land or property overseas.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PASTORAL MEASURE 1968

The Church Commissioners have prepared DRAFT PASTORAL SCHEMES containing provision for declaring redundant the parish church of the parish of Holy Trinity and Saint Paul, Greenwich (Southwark diocese), and the church of Saint Alphege, being one of the parish churches of the parish of Saint Peter with Saint Alphege and Saint Margaret and Saint Mildred with Saint Mary de Castro, Canterbury, and for appropriating it to use as a centre for the study of the urban environment and for purposes ancillary thereto (Canterbury diocese). The Commissioners have also prepared draft redundancy schemes empowering the Church Commissioners to sell, give or lease the site of the former church of Saint George (Blackburn diocese), and for appropriating the old church of Melton Saint Andrew to use for Christian community and educational purposes (Saint Edmundsbury and Ipswich diocese). Copies of the draft schemes may be obtained from the Church Commissioners, 1 Millbank, London, SW1P 3JZ to whom any representations should be sent within 28 days of the publication of this notice.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

9.05 For Schools, Colleges: Technical studies 9.38 Science workshop 10.00 You and Me. With Roy Hudd (not Schools) 10.15 Maths 10.38 Geometry 11.00 Words and Pictures 11.17 The clarinet 11.40 The Jamaican countryman 12.05 Lesson fourteen of a 24-part French course 12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial Report and news headlines with subtitles) 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Among the items of this popular magazine programme is a look at the traditional British pie by Elizabeth Orsini 1.45 Postman Pat. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r) 2.01 For Schools, Colleges: The Frozen North 2.18 Modern History: From Pearl Harbour to Hiroshima 2.40 Merry-go-Round 3.05 Songs of Praise from the St Paul's district of Bristol introduced by Noreen Bray (r) 3.40 Play it Safe! Safety hints for children presented by Jimmy Savile (r) 3.53 Regional news (not London).

3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC2).
4.20 Cartoon: Winsome Witch in Good Red Hiding Hood (r).
4.25 Jackanory. Rosalind Ayres reads part three of The Secret Garden.
4.40 Take Hart. Tony Hart investigates the protective weapons of certain animals.
5.00 John Craven's Newsround.
5.10 The Story of the Treasure Seekers. The last episode of the dramatization of the novel by E. Nesbit.
5.40 News with Richard Baker 6.00 South East at Six 6.25 Nationwide.
6.55 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Two funnies featuring Droopy and one each with Tom and Jerry and Daffy Duck.
7.25 Film: Bret Maverick starring James Garner. A made-for-television feature-length film heralding the start of another Maverick series beginning on Monday. Garner plays the laconic cowboy gambler who arrives in town for one last poker game.

9.00 News read by John Humphrys.
9.25 Sportsnight introduced by Harry Carpenter. There are highlights of the first indoor athletics meeting of the season. Ron Pickering and Stuart Storey are the commentators at RAF Cosford where Great Britain's men compete against Belgium and our ladies meet the Netherlands. Harry Carpenter was at the ringside for last night's fight between Cornelius Boza-Edwards and Kirkland Laing and Tony Gubba reports from St Moritz on the World Two-Man Bobsleigh Championship.
10.25 Parkinson. His guests tonight are comedian, author and playwright Eric Idle; journalist and former Olympic Gold medallist Chris Brasher; and doctor turned tele-celebrity Jonathan Miller.
11.18 News headlines.
11.20 Oscar Peterson — Words and Music. The brilliant Canadian jazz pianist has as his guests Count Basie and Joe Pass (r).
12.10 Weather.

BBC 2

10.20 Gharbar. A magazine programme of interest to Asian women. 10.45 Closedown. 11.00 Play School. For the under fives presented by Floella Benjamin and Andrew Secombe. The story is the traditional Three Little Pigs. 11.25 Closedown. 12.30 Open University: Developing Mathematical Thinking: Subtraction. 1.20 Closedown. 1.45 Racing from Ascot. Live coverage of the Sapling Novices' Chase (2.00); the Fernbank Hurdle (2.30); Whitbread Trial Handicap Steeplechase (3.00); and the Reynoldstown Novices' Chase (3.35). The races are introduced by Richard Pitman and the commentators are Julian Wilson and John Hanmer. 3.50 International Bowls. Coverage of the second day's play in the Embassy World Indoor Championship at Coatbridge.

4.00 International Bowls continued.
5.10 Prendiville's Finest Innings. Kieran Prendiville investigates science in cricket with the aid of Ian Botham (r).
5.40 The Water Margin. Adventures of Chinese knights of a thousand years ago (r).
6.25 Cartoon: MGM's A Rainy Day.
6.30 The Making of Mankind presented by Richard Leaky. Part two: One Small Step (r).
7.20 News with subtitles.
7.25 The Master Game. Raymond Keene plays Walter Browne of the United States in the second game of the international chess series.
7.55 Chronicle: For the Love of Egypt. Starring Margaret Tyzack and Jeremy Clyde. The story of Amelia B. Edwards, the Victorian novelist and traveller.

9.00 M*A*S*H. The medical staff of the 4077th American field hospital adopt an abandoned Amerasian baby in this week's episode of the tragicomedy series set against the background of the Korean war.
9.25 Nancy Astor. A dramatization of the life of Britain's first lady Member of Parliament adapted in nine parts by Derek Marlowe. Lisa Harrow stars in the title role. This first episode deals with the Virginian childhood of Nancy up to her meeting her first husband.
10.20 Out of Court. Nick Ross and Jane Walmsley with the week's legal stories.
10.50 Newsnight.
11.35 International Bowls. Highlights of the second day's play in the World Indoor Championship.
12.15 Closedown.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 For Schools: insight for the hearing impaired. 9.47 The Chacma baboons of Africa. 10.04 All about bricks. 10.16 German conversation. 10.38 Health in Britain and the United States. 11.02 A Yorkshire scythe-making factory of fifty years ago. 11.20 Practical science. 11.39 The nationalization of the Railways. 12.00 The Munch Bunch. Adventures of animated vegetables. 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets. The guest is Christopher Lillicrap. 12.30 Play it Again. Tony Bilbow talks to Green Cross Code man Dave Prowse who chooses some clips from his favourite films. 1.00 News. 1.20 Thames news. 1.30 Take the High Road. There is a stranger in the village. 2.00 After Noon Plus introduced by Mary Parkinson with Kay Avila. 2.45 The Six Million Dollar Man. The man of many parts comes to the aid of America's first woman astronaut (r). 3.45 Definition. A crossword-type game chaired by Don Moss. The celebrity contestants are Claire Rayner and Graham Stark.

4.15 Cartoon: Dangermouse in another battle with the nasty Mr Greenback.
4.20 Madabout. Michael Bentine's guest is Gareth Edwards who talks about his hobby of fly fishing.
4.45 Arthur of the Britons. Adventures of King Arthur. Today he helps the Celts fight the Saxons (r).
5.15 Mr Merlin. Comedy series about a wizard disguised as a garage manager.
5.45 News. 6.00 Thames news.
6.25 Help! Viv Taylor Gee looks at the problems of one-parent families.
6.35 Crossroads. Glenda Banks joins a march for the young unemployed.
7.00 This is Your Life introduced by Eamonn Andrews.
7.30 Coronation Street. The Barlows argue over whether or not to have a baby.
8.00 The Benny Hill Show. An hour-long series of comic sketches featuring the master of the double entendre.

9.00 Minder. Terry has been loaned out by Arthur to 'mind' a pop star's ostentatious mansion while he is playing in Las Vegas.
10.00 News.
10.30 Surrender. A documentary about the fall of Singapore in February 1942.
11.30 Kaz. His client is a policewoman determined to protect her partner who is accused of planting a gun.
12.25 Close with Ian and Jennifer Partridge.



General Arthur Percival: Surrender (ITV 10.30pm)

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Midweek: Henry Kelly.
10.00 News.
10.02 Gardeners' Question Time.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Morning Story: "Where Did It Get Me?" by Brian Glanville.
11.00 News.
11.05 Baker's Dozen.
12.00 News.
12.02 You and Yours.
12.27 Around the World in 25 Years, with Johnny Morris (6). †
12.55 Weather: and Programme News.
1.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Play: "Home from Home" by R. E. T. Lamb.†
3.50 Zoo Talk. A collection of stories from the zoo.
4.00 Crooning Buffoons: Teds to post-punk and back again.†
4.45 Story Time: "An Old Captivity" by Nevile Shute (3).
5.00 PM.
6.00 News and Financial Report.
6.30 My Word: A panel game.†
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Checkpoint.
7.45 The Profession of Intelligence (last in series) A look at British Intelligence.
8.30 A Sideways Look at . . . by Anthony Smith.
8.45 File on 4.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
9.59 Weather.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.30 Quote . . . Unquote: Nigel Rees and guests share favourite quotations and identify others.†
11.00 A Book at Bedtime: "Charmed Lives": by Michael Korda (3).
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News and Weather.

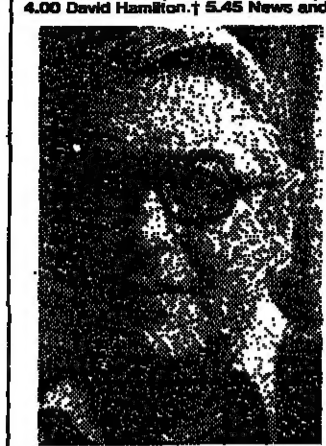
Radio 3

6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Your Midweek Choice. Donizetti, Hahn, Offenbach (mono), Lalo; records.†
8.00 News.
8.05 Your Midweek Choice (continued). Balfour Gardiner, Tchaikovsky; records.†
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composer: Berlioz; records.†
10.00 The Virtuoso Voice. Recital: Monteverdi, Grandi, Frescobaldi, Caccini, Carissimi.†
10.40 Enesco. Concert.†
11.10 Piano Music. Recital: Schubert, Brahms, Debussy.†
11.55 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Concert: Copland, MacDowell, Robin Orr.†
1.00 News.
1.05 Concert Hall. String Quartet recital: Haydn, Dvorak.†
2.05 Music Weekly.†
2.55 Jazzmen Talking. Benny Carter in conversation with Charles Fox.†
4.00 Choral Evensong, direct from Worcester Cathedral.†
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.†
7.00 Shem's Progress: James Joyce and the Making of Finnegan's Wake, by John Quinn.†
8.00 BBC Symphony Orchestra. Concert direct from the Royal Festival hall, London. Part 1: Dvorak, Hindemith.†
8.50 Six Continents.
9.10 BBC Symphony Orchestra. Part 2: Brahms.†
10.00 Scientifically Speaking. British biotechnologists discuss their work with John Maddox.
10.45 Antonio Soler: Piano recital.†
11.00 News.
11.05 Irving Berlin. Three songs on records.

Henry Kelly: Radio 4 9.05am

Radio 2

5.00am Ray Moore.† 7.30 Terry Wogan.† 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.00 Gloria Hunniford.† 2.00 Ed Stewart.† 4.00 David Hamilton.† 5.45 News and Sport. 6.00 John Dunn.† 8.00 Soccer Special. 9.30 Sounds of the Sun.† 10.00 Pros and Cons. 10.30 Be My Guest. 11.00 Brian Matthew, from midnight.† 1.00am Truckers' Hour.† 2.00-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†



Kingsley Amis: Radio 2 10.30pm

Radio 1

5.00am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee Travis. 2.00 Paul Burnett. 3.30 Steve Wright. 5.00 Peter Powell. 7.00 Radio 1 Mailbag: Phone-in on 01-580 4411. 8.00 David Jensen. 10.00 John Peel.† 12.00 midnight Close.

World Service

6.00 am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary. 7.30 Letter From London. 7.40 Book Choice. 7.45 Report on Religion. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 The King of Instruments. 8.30 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Terry Wogan's Album Time. 10.15 Classical Record Review. 10.30 The Red and the Black. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About Britain. 11.15 Listening Post. 11.30 Meridian. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Nature Notebook. 12.25 The Farming World. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary. 1.30 Radio Theatre. 2.15 Report on Religion. 2.30 A Word in Edgeways. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Musician at Large. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Listening Post. 5.25 The King of Instruments. 6.00 World News. 6.09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary. 6.15 Marching and Waltzing. 6.30 Jazz for the Asking. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Paperback Choice. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 The Instrument Maker. 11.30 Top Twenty. 12.00 World News. 12.09 am News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Listening Post. 12.45 Smash of the Day: The Navy Lark. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Is Sin Out of Date? 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 Assignment. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 Just a Minute. 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today.

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 1053kHz/285m or 1089kHz/275m. Radio 2 MF 693kHz/433m or 909kHz/330m. Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz. Radio 3 VHF 90-92.5MHz, MF 1215kHz/247m. Radio 4 LF 200kHz/1500m and VHF 92-95MHz. Greater London Area MF 720kHz/417m. LBC MF 1152khz/261m, VHF 97.3MHz. Capital MF 1548kHz/194m, VHF 95.8MHz. BBC Radio London MF 1458kHz/206m and VHF 94.9MHz. World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1

Cymru/Wales 11.17am-11.40 Ysgolion: Ffenestri. 12.57pm-1.00 News of Wales. 2.18-2.40 Ysgolion: Hyn O Fyd. 5.10-5.40 Grange Hill (part 8). 6.00-6.25 Wales Today. 6.55-7.15 Heddiw. 7.15-7.45 Tomos A Titw (part 6). 7.45-8.10 Dr Who. 8.10-9.00 The Rockford Files. 12.10am News and weather. Scotland 12.55pm-1.00 The Scottish News. 2.40-3.05 For Schools: Around Scotland — Maps (2). 6.00-6.25 Reporting Scotland. 6.55-7.25 Fanfare. 12.10am News and Weather. Northern Ireland 12.57pm-1.00 Northern Ireland News. 3.53-3.55 Northern Ireland News. 6.00-6.25 Scene Around Six. 6.55-7.25 Prospect. 12.10am News and weather. England 6.00pm-6.25 Regional News Magazines. 6.55-7.25 East—So Great A Lover. London and South East—Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Midlands—Challenge. North—Lifelines. North East—Just Below the Surface. North West—Sit Thi' Deawn. South—Hey Look . . . That's Me. South West—The Music Quiz. West—RPM. 12.15am Close.

SCOTTISH

As Thames except: 1.20pm News. 1.30-2.00 Full Life: Admiral Sir Frank Twiss. 2.45-3.45 Love Boat. 5.15 Trivial Tales. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.20 Action Line. 6.30-7.00 Report. 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 Ladies Man. 12.05am Butlin's Grand Masters Darts. 12.35 Closedown.

GRAMPIAN

As Thames except: 9.25am-9.30 First Thing. 1.20-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Trapper John. 5.15-5.45 Private Benjamin. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight. 11.30 Monte Carlo Show: Tessie O'Shea. 12.25am News. 12.30 Closedown.

ULSTER

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 2.45-3.45 New Avengers. 5.15 Radio. 5.30-5.45 Good Evening Ulster. 6.00-6.35 Good Evening Ulster. 11.30 Bedtime, followed by Closedown.

YORKSHIRE

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Trapper John. 5.15-5.45 Private Benjamin. 6.00-6.35 Calendar. 11.30 Jazz. 12.00 Closedown.

TVS

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News 2.45-3.45 Ante Room. 5.15 Radio. 5.30-5.45 Coast to Coast. 6.00-6.35 Coast to Coast. 11.30 Jazz at the Millionaire: Panama Francis. 12.15 am Company, Closedown.

TSW

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Trapper John. 5.15 Gus Honeybun. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 Scene South West / A Day in the Life . . . 11.30 Danger UXB. 12.30 am Postscript. 12.36 Closedown.

BORDER

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 Border News. 2.45-3.45 Ante Room: Final episode in this Irish period drama. 5.15-5.45 Radio. 6.00-6.35 Lookaround. 11.30 News. 11.33 Closedown.

ANGLIA

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Trapper John. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 11.30 New Avengers. 12.30am Big Question. Closedown.

CENTRAL

As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Hagen (Chad Everett). 5.15-5.45 Radio. 6.00 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 News. 11.30 Butlins' Grand Masters Darts Championship. 12.00 Switch (Robert Wagner). 1.00am Closedown.

CHANNEL

As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45-3.45 Trapper John. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.35-7.00 Ladies First. 11.30 Danger UXB. 12.30am Epilogue followered by Closedown.

Richard Griffiths: ITV 9.00pm

HTV WEST

As Thames except 1.20pm-1.30 News. 2.45 Bracken. 3.45-4.15 History Makers: Bastille. 4.45 Sport Billy. 5.10 Ask Oscar! 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 News. 6.30-7.00 Sing A Song With Me. 11.30 Amazing Years Of Cinema: Comedies. 12.00 Closedown.

HTV CYMRU/WALES

As HTV West except: 12.00-12.10pm Flalabalam. 4.15 Y Rheilffordd Gudd. 4.45 Mr Merlin. 5.10-5.20 Dick Tracy. 6.00 Y Dydd. 6.15-6.30 Report Wales. 10.30 Pethau Prin. 11.15 Surrender. 12.15 Closedown.

GRANADA

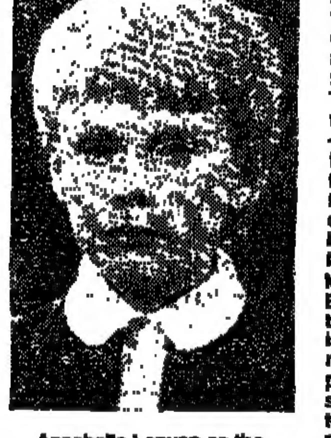
As Thames except 12.30pm-1.00 Mr & Mrs. 1.20 Granada Reports. 1.30 Exchange Flags. 2.00 Take The High Road. 2.30 Multi-Million Viewer Audition. 2.45-3.45 Ante Room. 5.15-5.45 Private Benjamin. 6.00 This Is Your Right. 6.05 Crossroads. 6.30-7.00 Granada Reports. 11.30 Streets Of San Francisco. 12.30am Closedown.

TYNE TEES

As Thames except 9.20am Good Word. 9.25-9.30 News. 1.20pm News. 1.25-1.30 Where The Jobs Are. 2.45-3.45 Love Boat. 5.15-5.45 Private Benjamin. 6.00 News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 Northern Life with Tom Coyne. 11.30 Two of Us. 12.00 Anticipating Valentine's Day. 12.05am Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN. † STEREO * BLACK AND WHITE: (r) REPEAT

CHOICE



Annabelle Lanyon as the young Nancy in Nancy Astor (BBC2 9.25pm)

● BBC television's latest lavish serial NANCY ASTOR (BBC 2 9.25pm) starts tonight with the childhood and early womanhood of the lady destined to become our first female Member of Parliament. The story begins with Nancy narrating the early part of their life — at first nomadic as the large family (there were eleven children) follow their father as he searches for work after losing his money during the Civil War. When daddy becomes a railway magnate they finally settle in the mansion of Mirador in Virginia. Her visit to the Blue Mountain folk which sowed the seeds of her social conscience is touched upon as is her uneasy relationship with her father. The photography and locations are superb but this opening episode is too cloying for comfort but promises to be less so as she escapes the family home into marriage. Annabelle Lanyon plays the young Nancy and Liza Harrow the adult. Dan O'Herlihy and Sylvia Sims are the parents.

● SURRENDER (ITV 10.30pm) is a documentary on the capitulation of Singapore in February 1942. At the time Winston Churchill described it at "the greatest disaster in the history of the British Empire" but evidence suggests that he was secretly uplifted because, that, coupled with the Pearl Harbour raid, brought the Americans into the war. Using archive film, both British and Japanese coupled with the personal reminiscences of both defenders and attackers, the programme builds up the background to the fall of the island fortress. The Japanese began bombing at 4.00am — thereby refuting the remarkable rumour that as they were slant-eyed they were unable to fly at night — thus heralding an attack which led to the sinking of two warships and the death of 24,000 troops and a half a million civilians. Japanese survivors re-live the engagement with relish but British servicemen and the locals interviewed are understandably critical of the backing they received from London.

● HOME FROM HOME (Radio 4 3.02pm), a play by R E T Lamb, casts Mary Wimbush as Corrinda, the daughter of a marriage between an Englishman and a high caste Indian, who has spent all her working life in India. On her retirement from the Indian Civil Service she decides to come to England and live in a home for retired professional ladies. What she expects from her first trip to England is very different in reality.

Entertainments Guide

Classified Guide

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Tighter controls promised on computer spying

By Stewart Tendler

A computer ombudsman and an Act enshrining general principles for protecting data on individuals, and special regulations for sensitive areas, such as medical records, are being debated in Whitehall as the final touches are made to a White Paper on data privacy.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Commons during Question Time yesterday that the White Paper, based on Whitehall's consideration of the Lindop report on data privacy, is expected during the present parliamentary session. Legislation could follow in the next session.

It is understood that the White Paper is expected in six to eight weeks. Downing Street has been applying pressure on the Home Office to complete it but there have been struggles within Whitehall about the nature of its contents.

Home Office proposals have met opposition from groups, including the Department of Trade, who have argued that the proposals did not include strong enough sanctions against offenders.

Some indication of Government thinking may be given by Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, when he speaks at a conference on computers in London tomorrow.

Whitehall sources suggest that the ombudsman would not have an inspectorate, but would examine complaints and oversee the operation of regulations set out in accordance with an Act of general principles. Under the Act all users of computers above a certain capacity would be required to register, and conform to standards agreed between the computer industry and Whitehall.

At one time it was proposed that special orders would be made for different users, that is, banks and industry, but instead it is proposed to adopt a streamlined system of general registration. However, special regulations will be drawn up by ministers to cover what are considered specially sensitive areas

As far as powers and sanctions are concerned the White Paper may include proposals for the use of civil actions, but the Home Office is not thought to be happy with such sanctions. They may accept other proposals that the ombudsman, or registrar, be given powers to strike a user off the register

□ Mrs Thatcher told Mr Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham, West, that she hoped legislation on computer privacy would be brought forward in the next session of Parliament (Our Political Editor writes).

The Prime Minister told Mr Meacher she shared his distaste that such information should be available. She had seen a report in the *Sun* newspaper which, with Mr Meacher's cooperation, had hired a private agency to put together facts about his personal life which could have come only from computer records, including medical computer records and those held at Scotland Yard.

Parliamentary report, page 4



A South American fire ant demonstrates the scale of Western Electric's 64-K random access memory, which has 152,000 components and can call up 64,000 items of data instantly.

Elderly blacks in US less likely to commit suicide

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 9

New research in the United States has revealed a striking difference in the pattern of suicides among various ethnic groups. It disproves the theory that the rate of suicide increases with age in all groups.

Using sophisticated statistical data kept by government agencies, researchers have discovered that the suicide rate for middle-aged and elderly white Americans is three times the rate for blacks.

Among blacks the suicide rate peaks in the twenties and declines steadily with age. Some leading academic researchers argue that blacks feel a sense of triumph at reaching old age whereas whites often feel bored and lonely.

Dr Richard Seiden, Professor of Behavioural Science at the University of California, said in the latest issue of the *International Journal of Aging and Human Development* that among blacks "only the strongest survive". Elderly blacks felt pride in surviving against adversity.

The survival theory may also explain the low rate of suicides among older American Indians.

Dr Seiden said that suicide among young blacks was often a sign of inner anger caused by problems such as racialism before the individual had learned to cope. For whites suicide generally reflected feelings of loneliness and hopelessness as they grew older, often caused by the death of loved ones.

The family structure among blacks was more likely to be extended over several generations in contrast to "the nuclear family of white Americans," he added. As a result, blacks had "a good deal more participation and purposeful activity," such as child rearing.

Dr John McIntosh and Dr John Santos, reporting in the quarterly *Suicide and life threatening behaviour* said: "Aged blacks have learned to successfully handle the rage that characterizes young black suicides. They have done so either by scaling down their aspirations or by blaming others for their lack of success in life."

Religious attitudes to suicide seem to have a strong influence

Shoplifting suicides, page 4

10 years jail for woman who ran Polish strike

Warsaw, Feb 9.—A woman has been sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Polish Navy court for her part in organizing and directing a strike at the higher maritime school in the Baltic port of Gdansk, the official PAP news agency said today.

The agency said the woman, Ewa Kubasiewicz, had also been convicted of spreading false news likely to cause unrest or clashes and that her public rights had been suspended for five years.

Last week Jerzy Kowalczyk who was sentenced with her on the same charges was jailed for nine years, PAP said. His rights were also suspended for five years.

"In the same case prison sentences of three to nine years and suspension of public rights were meted out to seven other defendants convicted of printing and disseminating leaflets," the agency said. It did not say

A communique from the chief military prosecutor's office, published in the armed forces newspaper *Zolnierz Wolnosci*, said that during the past week military prosecutors across Poland started 48 investigations under summary procedure against 87 civilians under arrest.

PAP claimed that martial law restrictions were being eased, with the restoration of all telephone communications between *towns*. It added, *however*, that the calls would have to be put through by an operator and would be liable to censorship.—Reuter.

□ Mr Jerzy Odzowski, the Polish Deputy Prime Minister, said today that he hopes that Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, who has been under house arrest since martial law was declared, will soon be freed (AP reports).

Mr Odzowski, the only Roman-Catholic in a top government position in Poland, said in an interview that he is "convinced" that Mr Walesa bore no responsibility for what he termed the uncontrolled activities of the union in the weeks up to December 13.

□ *Paris*.—Polish journalists suspended after the introduction of martial law will have to be "verified" before getting their jobs back in the press, radio, or television, the Prague-based International Journalists Organization said today (AFP reports).

Aslef official to see driver

Continued from page 1

British Rail said of yesterday's events: "He had turned up expecting to work his normal roster turn, and we would have been wrong to turn him away. It has gone like a normal shift as far as he is concerned."

At 6.40 am he was on his way to Derby with one passenger and a policeman. He then went to Lincoln via Nottingham where he picked up two student nurses, Miss Elizabeth Weat, aged 18, and Miss Rachel Sowter, aged 17, from Wolverhampton, who had been on holiday in the city. There were no pickets.

As passengers left Mr Davies's train at the various stations during the shift a magnanimous British Rail allowed them to keep their tickets as mementoes of the occasion.

Two other trains moved in the Midlands yesterday, one carrying freight from Leicester to Birmingham and the other coal to Radcliffe Power Station on the Trent. Both were driven by members of the National Union of Railwaymen.

□ Mr Buckton said yesterday that he believed Mr Davies had been under pressure at the time he decided to take the train out and may have been worried that his early retirement would be prejudiced if he went along with the strike.

He added that there was no question of disciplinary action being taken against Mr Davies for the time being.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

A drop of Scotch with a dash of double Dutch

Transport and road safety were the subjects of yesterday's main debate. So beforehand, to put us in the mood, a Conservative backbencher asked Mrs Margaret Thatcher to ease the tax on whisky.

Mr David Myles, the backbencher, a tenant hill farmer who represents Banff, is one of the few Tories with a Scottish accent, most of the others tending to speak in the simple, picturesque, rude tones of the wild Kensington-Chelsea border country. That is because the few Scottish Conservatives in captivity tend to be far more up-market than their English colleagues. Mr Myles, however, is the real thing. So, for long stretches, he is incomprehensible.

At Prime Minister's question time, he gurgled and rumbled his way through a lengthy reminiscence of the time when Mrs Thatcher paid a visit to a whisky distillery at Glen . . . Glen . . . Glen. Members consulted one another. Glen where? No one seemed to know. The up-market Scots were probably no help. It could have been Glenn Miller for all they knew. Mr Myles continued happily on his way. "Will she recall the visit she made to the Glen-gurgle distillery . . . taxation . . . jeopardize jobs . . . malting, blending and bottling plants". He ended with a rousing call to Mrs Thatcher for "the doyen of the drinking trade." This was taken by many of us at first to be a reference to some exceptionally bottled backbencher. It turned out to be a reference to the whisky industry itself.

Mrs Thatcher, conscious of the drinking class vote, was quick to assure the House that taxation on whisky was lower under her Government. The Labour Party was unsure whether to deny or deplore this. Traditionally, Labour Members are unclear about where they stand on whisky, though in the headquarters hotel bar at the party conference some of them do not stand on it at all. So some Members denied Mrs Thatcher's claim, others deplored it.

The questioning turned to the subject of Sir Freddie Laker. Here was a subject on which Labour Members could agree. Sir Freddie is something of a lad; despite his present troubles, he manifestly enjoys life, and he is a folk hero of the working class. So Labour Members loathe him.

Mr John Rathbone (Lewes, C) asked for a two-month extension of the Laker company's air operator's certificate and route licences. Mrs Thatcher prefaced her reply with the observation: "I can well understand the hon Member's concern. As he knows, I'm a Freddie Laker fan." This was regarded on the Labour benches as hilarious, preposterous, incipiently Fascist and so on. It took some time for the laughter and ironic cheers to die away. The Labour Party was now in a thoroughly good mood. Not only had someone's business collapsed, but that someone was liked by the Prime Minister.

Nothing could take away from Sir Freddie the fact that he brought cheap travel to millions, the Prime Minister added amid further Opposition hilarity. Mr Robert Cryer (Keighley, Lab) shouted that Mr Ken Livingstone was also trying to bring cheap travel to millions. Actually, Mr Livingstone is trying to bring *cheap travel* paid for by millions. But no matter; Sir Freddie's fall had given a lot of simple pleasure to the Labour Members which it would be churlish to deny them.

In the end, it is probably simply a question of manner. The Labour Party is simply not at home with people like Sir Freddie. If he had managed to close down his airline by calling it out on strike he would be more popular with them; it is just a question of the right way of going about things. Labour Members are far more at home with their Shadow Minister of Transport, Mr Albert Booth, who spoke in the transport debate and launched an attack on the Government's modest proposal to privatise parts of the National Bus Company. Albert Booth! The very name suggests solidity, lack of risk and the static concept of transport. "Hi, I'm Albert, fly me." No, it doesn't sound right. "Booth Airways." Definitely not. Here was the sort of provider of transport with whom the Labour Party could do business.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, patron, the Press Club, attends the centenary banquet, International Press Centre, 76 Shoe Lane, EC4, 7.45.

The Duke of Edinburgh, president of the World Wildlife Fund, visits the fund's national organization and various of its projects in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Princess Alexandra names a Panamax bulk carrier building at Govan Shipbuilders, Glasgow, for the CY Tung group of Hongkong, 11.25.

Exhibitions

Experimental photography, Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield, 10 to 8.

Artist of the month, David Roberts, 1796-1864, the Cooper Gallery, Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, 10 to 5.30.

Arrogant connoisseur, Richard Payne Knight, Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Whitworth Park, 10 to 5.

Royal wedding dress and presents, Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh, 9.30 to 4.30.

Lubetkin and Tecton, architecture and social commitment, Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford, 10 to 5.

Hurry along please, 100 years of public transport in Oxfordshire, Banbury Museum, Banbury, 10 to 5.

Art of Japan: seventeenth-nineteenth centuries, Adeane Gallery, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, 10 to 4.50.

New light on Old Masters, paintings by Barrington Bramley, Cartwright Hall, Lister Park, Bradford, 10 to 5.

Talks, lectures

Air power over Europe I: The bomber offensive against Hitler's Germany, by Professor N. G. Brown, University of Birmingham, Poynting Building, 11.

Viking art in England, film and discussion about finds in York, Usher Art Gallery, Lincoln, 7.30.

The decorative arts of China, Cloisonne Enamel, by Gillian Darby, Victoria and Albert Museum, 1.15.

Music

Academy of Ancient Music chamber music recital, Lancaster University, Lancashire, 7.30.

Recital by Lorraine McAslan (violin) and Mary Haworth (piano), Bourne Hall, Ewell, 1.10.

Piano recital by Norman Beedie, St Olave, Hart Street, Fenchurch Street, EC3, 1.5.

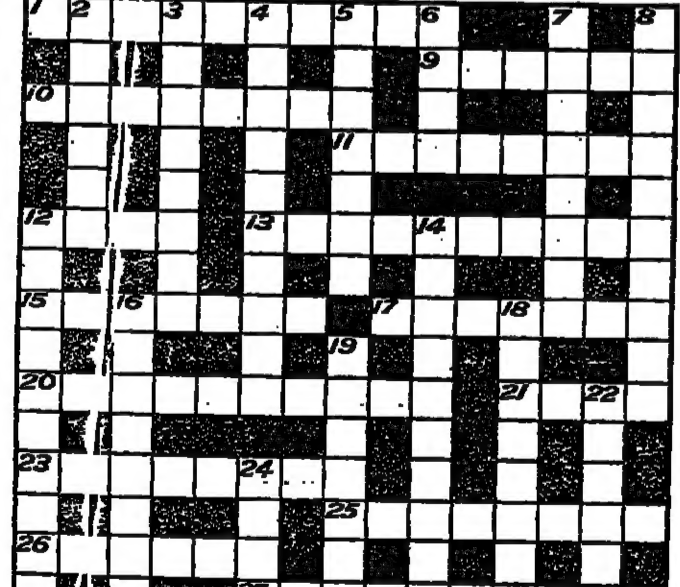
British painters and the Industrial Revolution, by Ann Keane, National Gallery, 1.

Walks

Legal and illegal London—Inns of Court, meet Holborn Underground, 11.

Haunted city pub walk, meet Chancery Lane Underground, 7.30.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,752



ACROSS

1 A trifle ornamental (5-5).
9 Flag-officer (6).
10 Solicitor taking part in non-U competition (8).
11 Condemn in a few words (8).
12 Smallest island? (4).
13 Does this violet bloom amid this ice in Italy? (10).
15 The law of the land circumscribing you in France (7).
17 Land-girl in Reading (7).
20 Run down and injure cute animal (10).
21 In any garden you'll find refuse (4).
23 Round sweet (4-4).
25 In a word, I'd a crowd around at home, a hundred (8).
26 Old father has met with an accident (6).
27 Considering, however, the withdrawal of German air (10).

DOWN

2 People get into an awful mess (6).
3 Note the first of these in hook-work (8).
4 K9 not peculiar to the London area (10).
5 Headless child's mother left bottomless (7).
6 Bewail keeping pig out (4).
7 Ringing up cash in various units (8).
8 Pen friend — but not overseas (10).
12 Anxiety to try cuisine out (10).
14 Applauding before going in for gluttony (10).
16 Everyone understanding the go-ahead (3-5).
18 Sold cheaper than some sirloin (8).
19 Ogygian song (7).
22 Take an overturned ship to the French island's capital (6).
24 It's up to us inside to turn out (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,751

Auctions today

Bonhams, Montpelier Street: watercolours and drawings, 11. Christie's, King Street: Russian and Greek icons, 2.30. Christie's, South Kensington: English and Continental pictures, 10.30 and 2; carpets and objects of art, 10.30; furniture, 1. Phillips, Blenheim Street: Chinese, Japanese and Middle Eastern ceramics and works of art, 11; railways, engines, models, toys and die cast models, 12. Sotheby's, Bond Street: topographical paintings, 11. Sotheby's, Belgravia: collectors' items including dolls and toys, 10.30.

Viewing

Bonhams, Montpelier Street: English and Continental furniture, 9 to 3; general ceramics and works of art, 9 to 5; oil paintings and carved frames, 9 to 3. Christie's, King Street: fine Victorian pictures; objects of art; Continental furniture; Eastern rugs and carpets, all 9.15 to 4.30; public wine tasting, 12 to 1. Christie's, South Kensington: furniture, 9.15 to 12; cameras and photographic equipment, 9.15 to 4.30; Oriental works of art, 9.15 to 4.30; European ceramics; printed books, all 9.15 to 4.30. Phillips, Blenheim Street: toys, 9 to 11; decorative arts and ceramics: silver and plate, both 9 to 4.30. Sotheby's, Bond Street: jewels; arms and armour; English pottery and porcelain; furniture; pictures (fast sale), all 9.30 to 4.30. Sotheby's, Belgravia: Oriental ceramics; Tunbridge ware and papier mâché, both 9.30 to 4.30.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending January 31:

BBC 1
1 Jim'll Fix It
2 Last of the Summer Wine
3 Top of the Pops
4 Terry and June
5 Goodbye Mr Kent
5 Dallas
7 Shoestring
8 A Shot in the Dark
9 The Les Dawson Show
10 Holiday

ITV
1 Coronation Street (Wed) (Granada)
2 This is Your Life (Thames)
3 Coronation Street (Mon) (Granada)
4 Family Fortunes (Central)
5 Wish You Were Here . . .? (Thames)
6 Shine On Harvey Moon (Central)
7 The Fall Guy (ITV)
7 Hart To Hart (ITV)
9 Crossroads (Wed) (Central)
9 3-2-1 (Yorkshire)

BBC 2
1 Int Snooker (21.48 Sun)
2 Pot Black 82
3 Grace Kennedy
4 Ski Sunday
5 Int Snooker (15.50 Sun)
6 Int Snooker (16.47)
7 Horizon (Mon. & Sun)
8 Int Snooker (22.13 Thur)
9 The Odd Angry Shot
10 Three of a Kind

British Audience Research Board

The Pound

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	1.78	1.70
Austria Sch	32.25	30.25
Belgium Fr	85.00	82.00
Canada $	2.33	2.24
Denmark Kr	15.00	14.25
Finland Mkk	8.70	8.25
France Fr	11.60	11.00
Germany DM	4.59	4.34
Greece Dr	122.00	113.00
Hongkong $	11.30	10.70
Ireland Pt	1.29	1.24
Italy Lir	2420.00	2320.00
Japan Yn	462.00	436.00
Netherlands Gld	5.02	4.76
Portugal Esc	132.00	125.00
South Africa Rd	2.09	1.94
Spain Pta	195.00	186.00
Switzerland Fr	3.69	3.47
USA $	1.91	1.84

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

London: The *FT* Index closed down 7.5 at 563.2

Anniversaries today

Charles Lamb was born in London, 1775, and Samuel Plimsoll, social reformer and proponent of the Plimsoll line, at Bristol, 1824. Joseph Lister, founder of antiseptic surgery, died at Walmer, Kent, 1912. Queen Victoria married Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, 1840.

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Travel

Pre-recorded travel information on Traveline—Rail: 01-246 8030; Road: 01-246 8031; Sea: 01-246 8032; Air: 01-246 8033.

Rail

British Rail services recommence today after yesterday's strike by Aslef drivers, who go on another strike from tonight. Eastern Region reports that there will be restricted commuter services on Liverpool Street-Fenchurch Street-King's Cross-Moorgate line early this morning, and there will be delays and cancellations during the peak hour. Southern Region hopes cancellations will be restricted to minimum.

Rundown of train services because of tomorrow's strike starts tonight: passengers should aim to reach destinations by 10 pm. No overnight trains.

Air

British Airways baggage handlers' strike means many cancellations today from Heathrow airport terminal one of flights to the Continent. Flights of Aeroflot, Finnair, Sabena, Swissair and Olympic also affected. BA shuttle and long-distance flights operating normally.

Sea

Danish Seaways announce withdrawal of Harwich-Hamburg sailings till February 17 for routine overhaul of vessels. Normal schedule for Newcastle-Esberg and Bremahaven services.

Roadworks

Scotland: A8: two-way traffic on one carriageway from Carnbroe to Chapelhall, Lanarkshire; A85: between Tyndrum and Oban numerous sets of roadworks (Argyllshire). A92: partially closed west of Aberdour, Fife, diversion for eastbound traffic.

North: A629: Roadworks on Keighley Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire. M18/M180: Only one lane in each direction, Humberside. A64: At Bramham crossroads (A1), kerb laying

The papers

The Wall Street Journal comments that it is genuinely sorry to see Sir Freddie Laker's airline go down. "But we do extract one ray of sunshine from the affair. So far, anyway, there has not been any talk of adding Laker Airways to Britain's list of Britain's list of nationalized companies. Against all odds, private enterprise still lives—and dies—in England."

The New York Times gives a hostile review of Mr Reagan's budget. The paper admits that there is a certain allure about his decision to hold course, but adds: "Steadfastness does not impart wisdom. The course Mr Reagan urges once more upon the nation may be consistent, but it is also dangerous, wasteful and even cruel."

In Italy, Paese Sera says that democratic public opinion in El Salvador is not disposed to assent to another Vietnam or an Auschwitz. Il Giornale, from a conservative viewpoint, calls any comparison between repression in Poland and El Salvador "absurd and scandalous".

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Scottish rate and housing support grant orders.
Lords (2.30): Debate on the rating system.

Weather

A mild S or SW airstream will persist over the British Isles as a frontal trough moves across central areas and a further trough approaches W Britain late in the day

6 am to midnight

London, SE, Central S, E England, E Midlands, East Anglia, Channel Islands: Mainly dry, sunny intervals; wind S or SW, moderate, locally fresh; max temp 10-12C (50-54F).

W Midlands, Central N, NE England: Rather cloudy, perhaps rain later; wind S or SW, moderate, increasing fresh or strong; max temp 10-12C (50-54F).

SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District: Mostly cloudy, occasional drizzle on hills becoming more persistent later; wind S, fresh or strong, locally gale force; max temp 9-11C (48-54F).

Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland: Cloudy, outbreaks of rain, becoming drier and brighter for a time; wind S or SW, fresh or strong, increasing gale force for a time; max temp 9-10C (48-50F).

Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Rather cloudy, rain spreading from SW, becoming more showery later with clear intervals developing; wind S, veering SW, fresh or strong; max temp 8-10C (46-50F).

NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Some sunny intervals, showers becoming more frequent and heavy; wind S or SW, strong, locally gale force; max temp 5-7C (41-45F)

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Unsettled and mostly mild.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind S, fresh, strong, or gale; sea rough. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S, strong or gale; sea rough.

Sun rises: 7.25 am. Sun sets: 5.06 pm.
Moon sets: 8.46 am. Moon rises: 7.50 pm.
Last quarter: February 15.

Lighting up time

London 5.36 pm to 6.53 am
Bristol 5.46 pm to 7.02 am
Edinburgh 5.35 pm to 7.18 am
Manchester 5.39 pm to 7.06 am
Penzance 6.01 pm to 7.11 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Birmingham				Inverness	f	6	43
Blackpool				Jersey	f	10	50
Bristol				London	c	11	52
Cardiff				Manchester	c	10	50
Glasgow	c	7	45	Newcastle	c	9	48
Guernsey	s	10	50	Ronaldsway	c	7	45

London

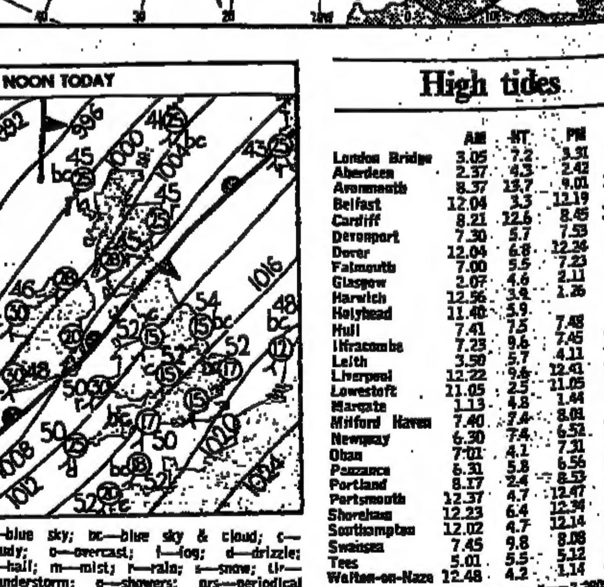
Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 13C (55F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 6 pm, 77 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, a trace. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 2.8hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,020.3 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

Satellite predictions

Figures give time of visibility, where rising, maximum elevation, and direction of setting. Asterisk denotes entering or leaving eclipse.

MANCHESTER: Cosmos 151R: (Feb 11) 5.57-6.2; S; 25SSE; E. Cosmos 1220R: 19.10-19.15; NW; 20N; NNE. Cosmos 185R: 19.13-18.22; NW; 45NE; E* and 19.53-20.0; NW; 60SSW; S*. Aryabhata R: (Feb 11) 5.26-5.28; S*; 25S; SSE. Seasat: 18 4-18 10; N; 20NNW; WNW. Agena DR: (Feb 11) 3 15-3.20; NNE*; 25NNE, ENE and 4.58-5.8, NNW*; 65ENE; SE and 6.43-6.53; NW; 30WSW, SSW.

Predictions supplied by Earth Satellite unit, Aston University, Birmingham.



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (Symbols are on advancing edge)

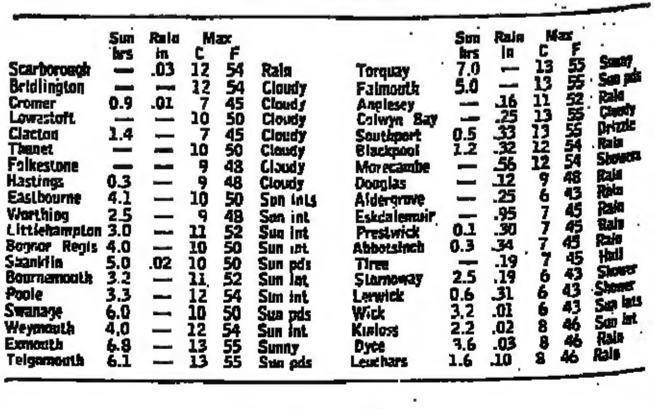
b—blue sky; bc—blue sky & cloud; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; prs—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph

High tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.05	7.2	3.31	7.5
Aberdeen	2.37	4.3	2.42	4.5
Avonmouth	8.37	13.7	9.01	13.5
Belfast	12.04	3.3	12.19	3.8
Cardiff	8.21	12.6	8.45	12.5
Devonport	7.30	5.7	7.53	5.4
Dover	12.04	6.8	12.24	6.6
Falmouth	7.00	5.5	7.23	[illegible]
Glasgow	2.07	4.6	2.11	[illegible]
Harwich	12.56	3.9	1.26	4.1
Holyhead	11.40	5.9		
Hull	7.41	7.5	7.48	7.9
Ilfracombe	7.23	9.6	7.45	9.4
Leith	3.50	5.7	4.11	[illegible]
Liverpool	12.22	9.6	12.41	9.6
Lowestoft	11.05	2.5	11.05	2.6
Margate	1.13	4.8	1.44	4.8
Milford Haven	7.40	7.4	8.01	7.1
Newquay	6.30	7.4	6.52	7.1
Oban	7.01	4.1	7.31	3.9
Penzance	6.31	5.8	6.56	5.5
Portland	8.17	2.4	8.53	2.1
Portsmouth	12.37	4.7	12.47	4.6
Shoreham	12.23	6.4	12.34	6.3
Southampton	12.02	4.7	12.14	4.6
Swansea	7.45	9.8	8.08	9.5
Tees	5.01	5.5	5.12	5.7
Walton-on-Naze	12.48	4.2	1.14	4.3

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain



	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarborough	—	.03	12	54	Rain	Torquay	7.0	—	13	55	Sunny
Bridlington	—	—	12	54	Cloudy	Falmouth	5.0	—	13	55	Sun pds
Cromer	0.9	.01	7	45	Cloudy	Anglesey	—	.16	11	52	Rain
Lowestoft	—	—	10	50	Cloudy	Colwyn Bay	—	.25	13	55	Cloudy
Clacton	1.4	—	7	45	Cloudy	Southport	0.5	.33	13	55	Drizzle
Thanet	—	—	10	50	Cloudy	Blackpool	1.2	.32	12	54	Rain
Folkestone	—	—	9	48	Cloudy	Morecambe	—	.56	12	54	Showers
Hastings	0.3	—	9	48	Cloudy	Douglas	—	.12	9	48	Rain
Eastbourne	4.1	—	10	50	Sun ints	Aldergrove	—	.25	6	43	Rain
Worthing	2.5	—	9	48	Sun int	Eskdalemuir	—	.95	7	45	Rain
Littlehampton	3.0	—	11	52	Sun int	Prestwick	0.1	.30	7	45	Rain
Bognor Regis	4.0	—	10	50	Sun int	Abbotsinch	0.3	.34	7	45	Rain
Shanklin	5.0	.02	10	50	Sun pds	Tiree	—	.19	7	45	Hail
Bournemouth	3.2	—	11	52	Sun int	Stornoway	2.5	.19	6	43	Shower
Poole	3.3	—	12	54	Sun int	Lerwick	0.6	.31	6	43	Shower
Swanage	6.0	—	10	50	Sun pds	Wick	3.2	.01	6	43	Sun ints
Weymouth	4.0	—	12	54	Sun int	Kinloss	2.2	.02	8	46	Sun int
Exmouth	6.8	—	13	55	Sunny	Dyce	3.6	.03	8	46	Rain
Teignmouth	6.1	—	13	55	Sun pds	Leuchars	1.6	.10	8	46	Rain

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sl, sleet; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	s	14	57	Copenhagen				Madrid	s	11	52	Riyadh	s	13	[illegible]
Akrotiri	f	15	59	Corfu	r	12	54	Majorca	s	15	59	Rome	f	14	[illegible]
Alexandria				Dallas				Malaga	c	15	59	Salzburg	f	-3	[illegible]
Algiers	s	17	63	Dublin				Malta	f	17	63	San Francisco	f	3	[illegible]
Amsterdam				Dubrovnik	r	8	46	Melbourne				Seoul			
Athens				Faro	f	15	59	Mexico City				Singapore			
Barbados				Frankfurt	c	5	41	Miami				Stockholm	c	-4	[illegible]
Barcelona				Funchal	s	19	66	Milan	fg	3	37	Strasbourg	f	10	[illegible]
Belgrade				Geneva	s	7	45	Montreal				Sydney	s	17	[illegible]
Berlin				Gibraltar	c	15	59	Moscow	s	-12	10	Tangier	c	14	[illegible]
Bermuda				Helsinki	f	-12	10	Munich	c	5	41	Tel Aviv	s	21	[illegible]
Biarritz				Hongkong	c	16	61	Nairobi	f	28	82	Tenerife	s	6	[illegible]
Boulogne	c	7	45	Innsbruck	f	4	39	Naples	c	11	52	Tokyo			
Bordeaux				Istanbul	f	7	45	New York				Toronto			
Boston				Jeddah	s	25	77	Nice	s	14	57	Tours	c	16	[illegible]
Brussels				Johannesburg				Oslo	sn	1	34	Valencia	s	14	[illegible]
Budapest	c	5	41	Las Palmas	f	20	68	Ottawa				Vancouver	[illegible]	8	46
Cairo	f	16	61	Lisbon	s	12	54	Paris	s	10	50	Venice	s	5	41
Cape Town				Locarno	s	8	46	Prague	f	3	37	Vienna	f	1	[illegible]
Casablanca	c	19	66	Los Angeles				Reykjavik	sl	1	34	Warsaw	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cologne				Luxembourg	f	7	45	Rhodes	s	14	57	Zurich	c	6	43